

Spatial Competition and Pass-Through of Fuel Taxes - Evidence from a quasi-natural Experiment in Germany

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This appendix provides comprehensive supplementary material to support the main analysis. It includes a detailed documentation of data construction procedures, extended descriptive statistics, and additional empirical results that reinforce the robustness of the findings. Specifically, Appendix A elaborates on data processing steps and presents visualizations of the spatial distribution of roadside fuel stations, intraday pricing patterns, alternative market delineations, and spatial competition metrics. It also reports supplementary regression results from robustness and sensitivity analyses employing alternative model specifications. Appendix B presents corresponding regression estimates for Super E10 fuel, while Appendix C contains average pass-through estimates for highway service stations.

A Appendix

Price Data – The study employs a comprehensive dataset of historical fuel price changes provided by Tankerkönig (2023), an authorized consumer information service with real-time access to the Market Transparency Unit’s (MTU) database. To ensure continuous price coverage for our analysis, hourly average prices are computed for each station by weighing all price fluctuations within an hour according to the time elapsed between consecutive price changes. In instances where no price change occurs within a given hour, the most recent price is carried forward to reflect the current price level. To ensure that the observed prices align with actual market activity, we take gasoline station operating hours into consideration. Opening times are primarily sourced from the Tankerkönig (2023) dataset, which is based on mandatory reports from gasoline stations. To address missing information, additional data from OpenStreetMap (OSM, 2024) is incorporated through a matching process based on geo-location and brand consistency. For roadside stations lacking valid opening hours from both sources, we assume 03:00 to 24:00 and 05:00 to 24:00 based on common business practices during the week and on the weekend, respectively. In the case of highway stations, we assume 24/7 opening times when no opening time data is available. Only price records corresponding to hours during which a gasoline station is open are retained, ensuring that the dataset accurately reflects fuel price dynamics during active market transactions.

Station Data – Fuel stations were geolocated using the geographic coordinates and address data provided by Tankerkönig (2023). As part of an extensive data cleaning process, implausible or inaccurate coordinates were corrected using a forward geocoding procedure via the OpenCage API (Zeigermann, 2018). Station locations were then validated against their corresponding addresses and assessed for proximity to highways, allowing for classification into either highway or roadside stations. Furthermore, brand affiliations were standardized by

accounting for variations in spelling and common misspellings to ensure consistency across the dataset.

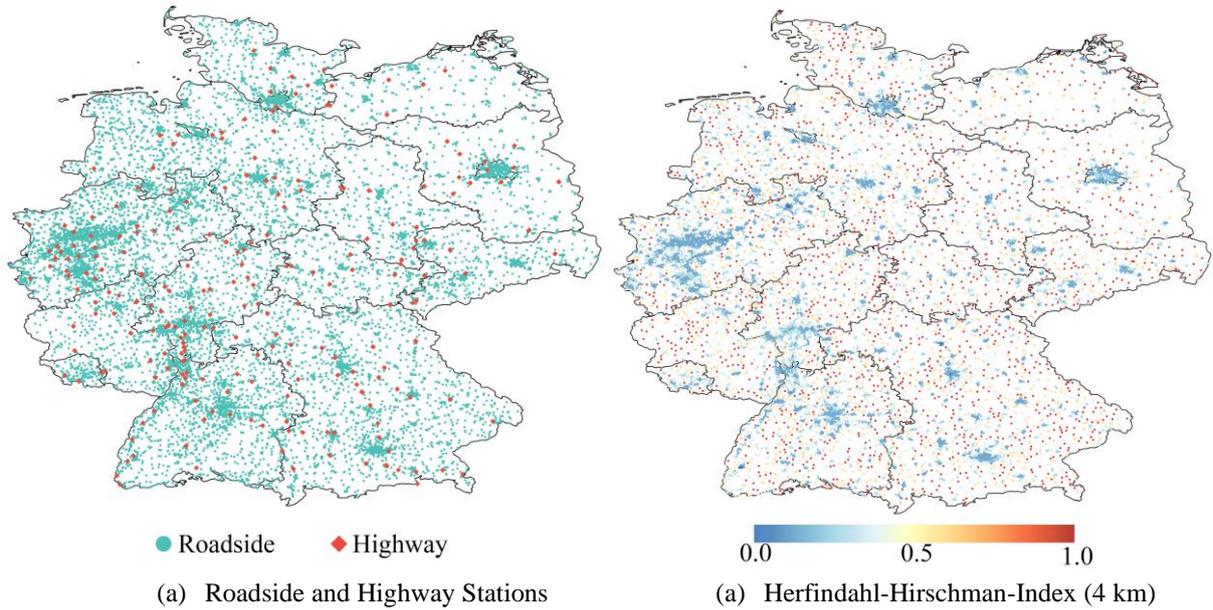
Weather Data – To account for the impact of weather conditions on retail prices we utilize a comprehensive dataset of hourly temperature and precipitation measures obtained from the Climate Data Centre operated by the German Weather Service (DWD, 2022). The dataset comprises records from 5,558 temperature stations and 493 precipitation stations, continuously collected throughout the year 2022. These measurements are georeferenced to their respective counties using a spatial join (i.e., a point-in-polygon operation) (Picard, 2015). Subsequently, the raw data are aggregated into daily averages at the NUTS-3 level. To address instances of missing observations, we implement an imputation algorithm that assigns valid measurements from the nearest available weather station for each single day, based on the geodetic distance between the county’s geographic center and surrounding stations (Picard, 2019). Finally, each gasoline station is linked to the weather data of its corresponding county.

Traffic Volume Data – We incorporate hourly traffic volume data from a network comprising 2,114 traffic counting stations managed by the Federal Highway Research Institute (BASt, 2022). Traffic volumes of federal roads are aggregated at the county level, while highway traffic volumes are averaged at the state level. This distinction reflects the functional differences between these road types: federal roads facilitate inter-regional traffic, whereas highways are designed exclusively for high-speed travel and do not uniformly cover all counties. Missing data points are imputed using the same nearest-station algorithm described above, ensuring that each NUTS classification receives data corresponding to the categorization as either a federal road or highway station. Finally, we merge aggregates for federal roads and highways to roadside and highway gasoline stations, respectively.

Appendix References

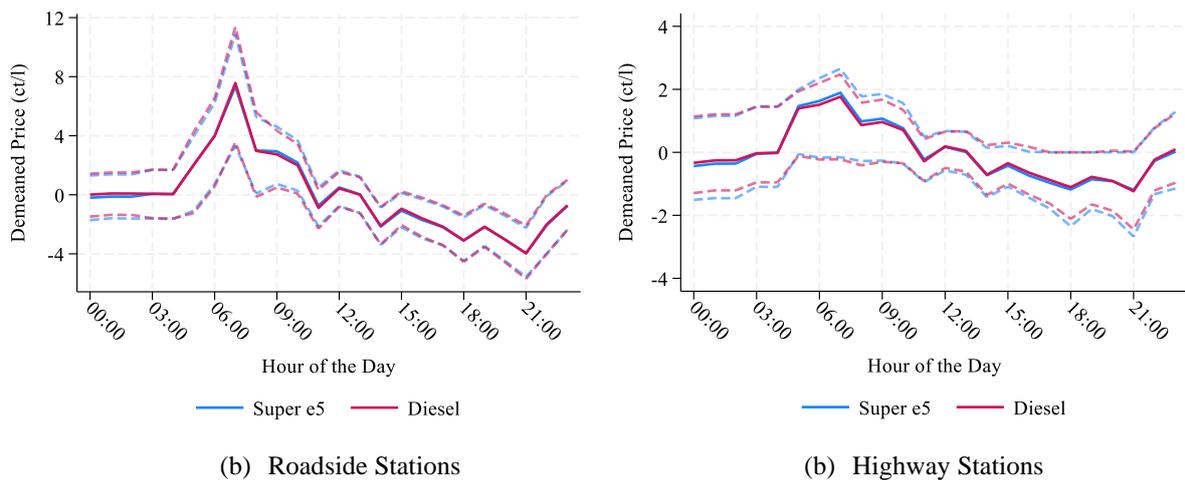
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Figure A.1: Observed Gas Stations across Germany 2022



Note: Visual representation of (a) all roadside and highway stations and (b) Herfindahl-Hirschman-Index (HHI) of roadside stations during the months of May and June. The HHI is based on a 4-kilometer market delineation.

Figure A.2: Intra-Day Price Cycles



Note: Visual representation of intra-day price cycles of (a) roadside and (b) highway stations. The solid lines denote average hourly deviation of daily mean prices during the months of May to September. The differences between the upper and lower dashed lines represent the interquartile range.

Table A.1: Spatial Competition between Roadside Stations in Germany 2022

	Full Sample		Region Type					
			Urban		Intermediate		Rural	
<i>3km Radius</i>								
Brand Count	4.24	[4.23]	5.74	[5.70]	3.74	[3.74]	2.92	[2.89]
	(2.74)	[(2.72)]	(2.74)	[(2.72)]	(2.54)	[(2.54)]	(1.96)	[(1.93)]
Competitor Count	4.25	[4.21]	6.85	[6.77]	3.33	[3.32]	2.10	[2.06]
	(4.27)	[(4.22)]	(4.85)	[(4.76)]	(3.53)	[(3.54)]	(2.24)	[(2.20)]
HHI	0.41	[0.41]	0.28	[0.28]	0.45	[0.45]	0.53	[0.54]
	(0.30)	[(0.30)]	(0.21)	[(0.21)]	(0.30)	[(0.30)]	(0.32)	[(0.32)]
<i>5km Radius</i>								
Brand Count	6.41	[6.38]	9.20	[9.13]	5.53	[5.53]	3.86	[3.83]
	(3.94)	[(3.93)]	(3.63)	[(3.63)]	(3.50)	[(3.51)]	(2.41)	[(2.39)]
Competitor Count	9.05	[8.96]	16.32	[16.13]	6.35	[6.33]	3.28	[3.23]
	(9.20)	[(9.10)]	(10.56)	[(10.42)]	(6.15)	[(6.17)]	(2.96)	[(2.92)]
HHI	0.29	[0.29]	0.19	[0.19]	0.32	[0.32]	0.41	[0.41]
	(0.24)	[(0.29)]	(0.13)	[(0.13)]	(0.24)	[(0.24)]	(0.28)	[(0.28)]
Observations	14,257	[14,200]	4,791	[4,765]	6,451	[6,429]	3,015	[3,006]

Note: Average values for various measures of spatial competition during May and June. Values for August and September are included in squared brackets. Standard errors are in parentheses.

Table A.2: Tax Pass-Through – Tax Reduction (Omitted Hourly FE)

	Time Window				
	Full Sample	5am - 11am	11am - 5pm	5pm - 11pm	11pm - 5am
	(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Super E5</i>					
TR	-27.34*** (0.03)	-28.57*** (0.04)	-27.30*** (0.03)	-25.33*** (0.04)	-27.21*** (0.07)
Constant	13.14*** (0.02)	15.65*** (0.02)	12.14*** (0.02)	11.39*** (0.03)	13.14*** (0.04)
Observations	5,489,722	1,498,836	2,011,836	1,637,812	341,238
<i>Super E10</i>					
TR	-27.38*** (0.03)	-28.63*** (0.04)	-27.34*** (0.03)	-25.36*** (0.04)	-27.24*** (0.07)
Constant	13.14*** (0.02)	15.68*** (0.02)	12.13*** (0.02)	11.39*** (0.03)	13.16*** (0.04)
Observations	5,297,838	1,443,877	1,943,789	1,582,427	327,745
<i>Diesel</i>					
TR	-13.11*** (0.03)	-15.12*** (0.03)	-12.76*** (0.03)	-10.23*** (0.03)	-10.93*** (0.05)
Constant	-0.51*** (0.02)	4.48*** (0.02)	-2.35*** (0.02)	-3.97*** (0.02)	-1.74*** (0.04)
Observations	5,605,432	1,532,743	2,048,726	1,672,449	351,514

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Average and conditional pass-through estimates for specific daily time periods. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as weekday and station fixed effects. Standard errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level.

Table A.3: Tax Pass-Through – Tax Increase (Omitted Hourly FE)

	Time Window				
	Full Sample	5am - 11am	11am - 5pm	5pm - 11pm	11pm - 5am
	(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Super E5</i>					
TR	24.51*** (0.05)	26.78*** (0.05)	23.93*** (0.05)	24.34*** (0.06)	26.15*** (0.11)
Constant	-6.41*** (0.02)	-4.19*** (0.02)	-6.93*** (0.02)	-8.37*** (0.03)	-8.31*** (0.05)
Observations	5,352,625	1,516,968	2,035,457	1,657,091	343,969
<i>Super E10</i>					
TR	24.41*** (0.05)	26.70*** (0.05)	23.82*** (0.05)	24.22*** (0.06)	26.09*** (0.11)
Constant	-6.23*** (0.02)	-3.99*** (0.02)	-6.76*** (0.02)	-8.19*** (0.03)	-8.18*** (0.05)
Observations	5,352,625	1,459,571	1,964,373	1,599,373	329,308
<i>Diesel</i>					
TR	8.36*** (0.03)	9.55*** (0.03)	8.07*** (0.03)	8.06*** (0.04)	8.91*** (0.07)
Constant	5.52*** (0.02)	6.35*** (0.02)	5.30*** (0.02)	4.95*** (0.03)	4.36*** (0.04)
Observations	5,670,471	1,551,300	2,072,832	1,692,139	354,200

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Average and conditional pass-through estimates for specific daily time periods. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as weekday and station fixed effects. Standard errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level.

Table A.4: Robustness - Tax Reduction

Bandwidth	10 days	12 days		14 days		16 days
Donut	9 hours	9 hours	0 hours	9 hours	18 hours	9 hours
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Super E5</i>						
TR	-27.43*** (0.02)	-27.24*** (0.02)	-27.01*** (0.03)	-26.84*** (0.03)	-26.36*** (0.04)	-26.05*** (0.04)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	11.91*** (0.03)	12.53*** (0.03)	13.20*** (0.02)	12.78*** (0.02)	12.69*** (0.03)	12.43*** (0.02)
Observations	3,895,232	4,665,649	5,614,951	5,489,722	5,266,268	6,307,555
Adjusted R^2	0.820	0.806	0.790	0.800	0.784	0.794
<i>Super E10</i>						
TR	-27.49*** (0.02)	-27.29*** (0.03)	-27.10*** (0.03)	-26.88*** (0.03)	-26.38*** (0.04)	-26.08*** (0.04)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	11.92*** (0.03)	12.53*** (0.03)	13.21*** (0.02)	12.78*** (0.02)	12.69*** (0.03)	12.43*** (0.02)
Observations	3,758,599	4,502,731	5,418,252	5,297,838	5,082,575	6,086,944
Adjusted R^2	0.821	0.808	0.792	0.801	0.784	0.795
<i>Diesel</i>						
TR	-13.09*** (0.02)	-12.71*** (0.02)	-13.06*** (0.02)	-12.52*** (0.03)	-10.85*** (0.03)	-12.31*** (0.03)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	-0.96*** (0.02)	-0.98*** (0.02)	-0.53*** (0.02)	-0.89*** (0.02)	-1.57*** (0.02)	-0.99*** (0.02)
Observations	3,977,444	4,763,780	5,733,715	5,605,432	5,377,625	6,440,629
Adjusted R^2	0.403	0.391	0.423	0.401	0.331	0.424

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Pass-through estimates for alternate bandwidth and donut sizes. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as hour of the day, weekday, and station fixed effects. Standard errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level.

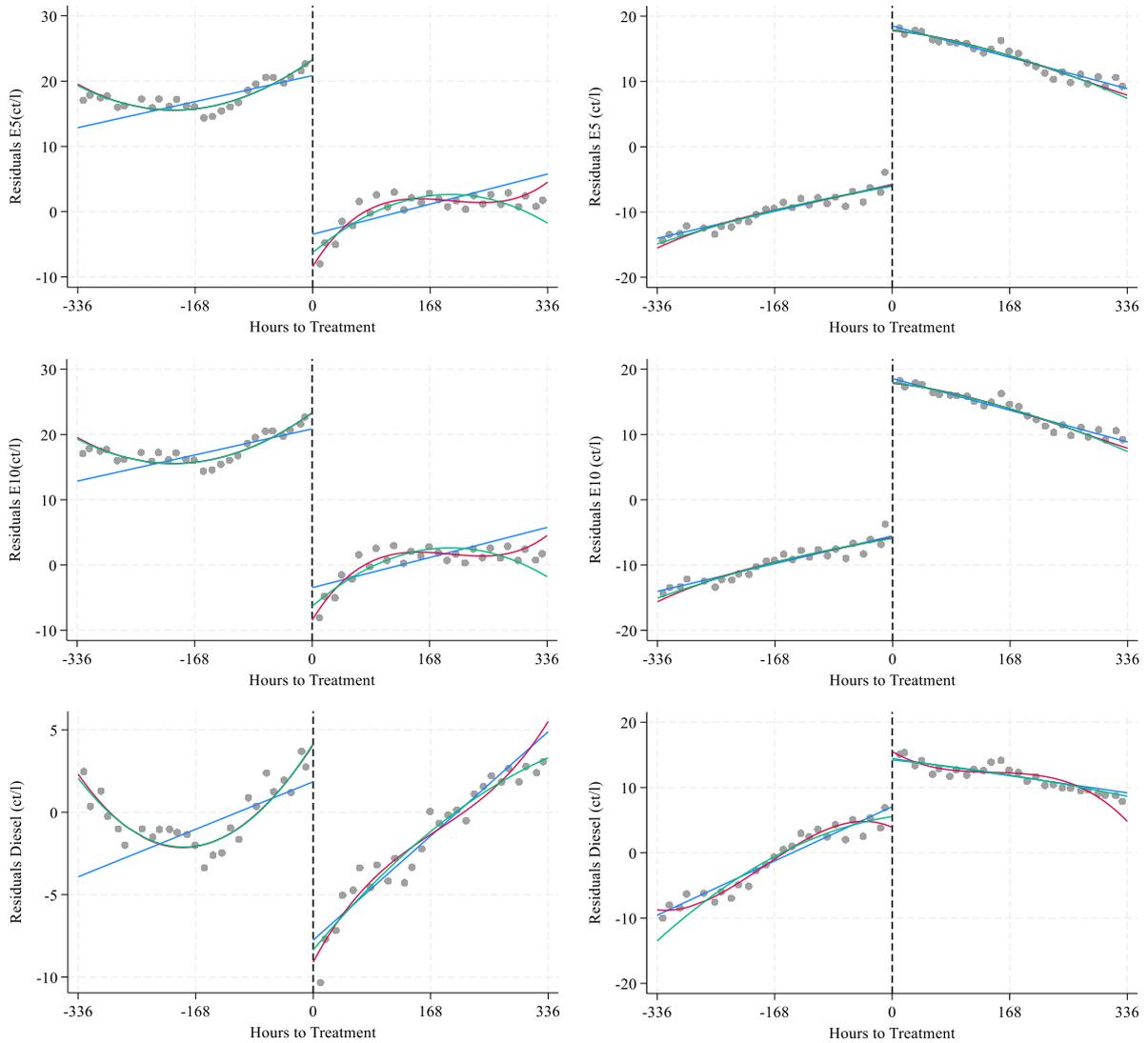
Table A.5: Robustness - Tax Increase

Bandwidth	10 days	12 days		14 days		16 days
Donut	9 hours	9 hours	0 hours	9 hours	18 hours	9 hours
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Super E5</i>						
TR	22.98*** (0.03)	24.32*** (0.04)	23.93*** (0.05)	25.13*** (0.05)	26.62*** (0.06)	25.05*** (0.04)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	-5.61*** (0.02)	-6.56*** (0.03)	-5.77*** (0.02)	-6.72*** (0.02)	-7.48*** (0.03)	-6.35*** (0.03)
Observations	3,955,455	4,704,683	5,679,521	5,553,485	5,329,393	6,401,964
Adjusted R^2	0.702	0.695	0.683	0.692	0.690	0.690
<i>Super E10</i>						
TR	22.90*** (0.03)	24.24*** (0.04)	23.88*** (0.04)	25.03*** (0.05)	26.52*** (0.06)	24.93*** (0.04)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	-5.46*** (0.02)	-6.40*** (0.03)	-5.61*** (0.02)	-6.54*** (0.02)	-7.29*** (0.03)	-6.15*** (0.03)
Observations	3,811,176	4,535,245	5,473,745	5,352,625	5,136,869	6,169,601
Adjusted R^2	0.697	0.691	0.680	0.688	0.686	0.687
<i>Diesel</i>						
TR	9.82*** (0.02)	9.60*** (0.02)	8.02*** (0.03)	8.83*** (0.03)	8.50*** (0.04)	7.76*** (0.03)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	4.45*** (0.02)	4.52*** (0.02)	5.98*** (0.02)	5.25*** (0.02)	5.30*** (0.03)	5.92*** (0.02)
Observations	4,038,793	4,803,165	5,799,516	5,670,471	5,442,129	6,537,377
Adjusted R^2	0.314	0.355	0.382	0.389	0.384	0.422

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Pass-through estimates for alternate bandwidth and donut sizes. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as hour of the day, weekday, and station fixed effects. Standard errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level.

Figure A.3: RDiT Plot– Alternative Polynomials



(a) Tax Reduction

(b) Tax Increase

Note: Alternate polynomial time trends for the (a) tax reduction and (b) tax increase. The blue, green, and red lines represent a first, second, and third order polynomial for the pre- and post-tax change period of 336 hours, respectively. Each point represents average residuals within equally spaced bins across roadside stations, accounting for hour of day and weekday fixed effects.

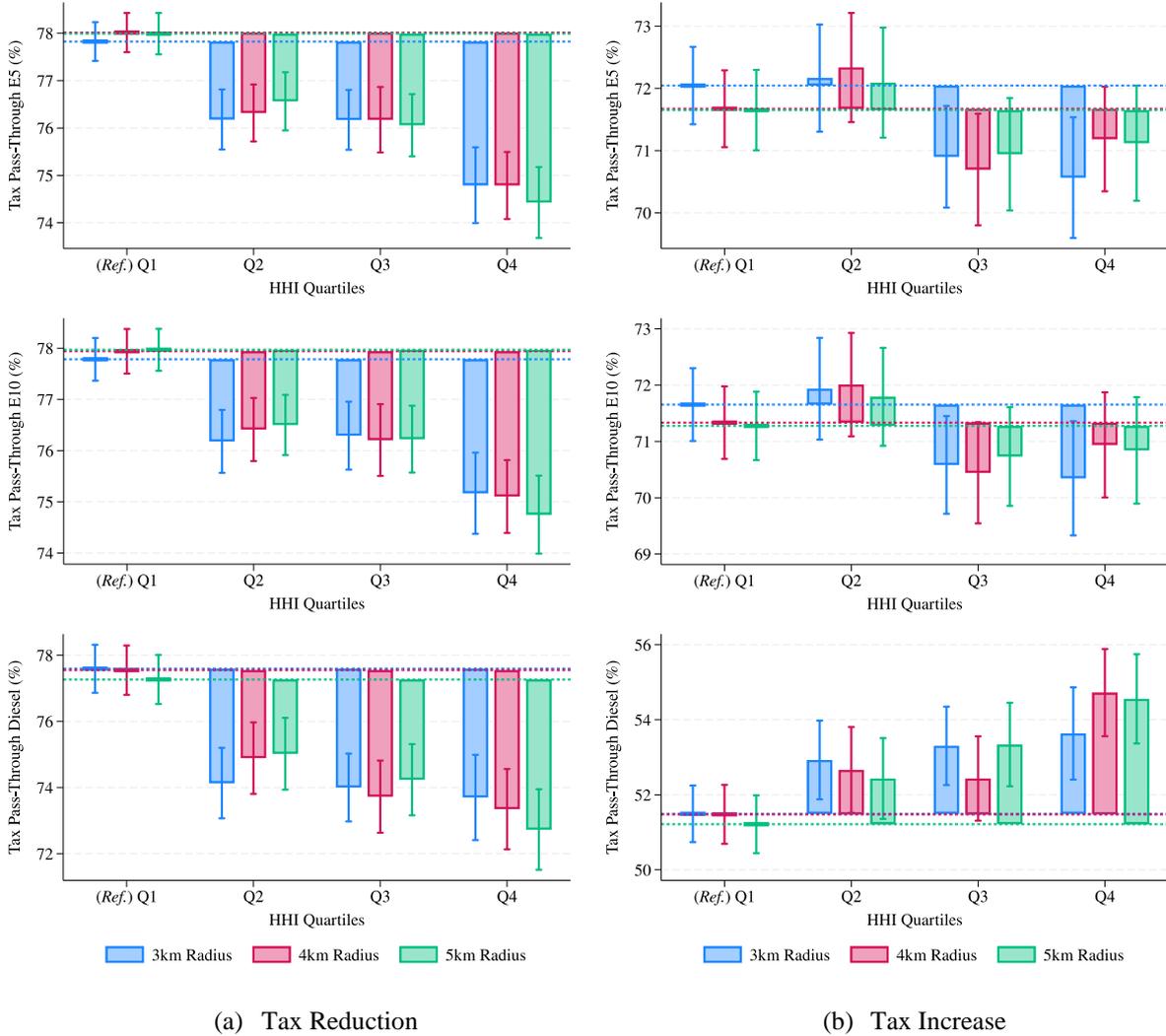
Table A.6: Pass-Through of the German Fuel Discount by selected Brand Affiliation

	Tax Reduction			Tax Increase		
	Super E5	Super E10	Diesel	Super E5	Super E10	Diesel
<i>Oligopolistic</i>						
ARAL	-26.92*** (0.07) [76.6%]	-26.93*** (0.07) [76.6%]	-12.79*** (0.06) [76.5%]	25.81*** (0.12) [73.4%]	25.81*** (0.12) [73.4%]	9.53*** (0.07) [57.0%]
SHELL	-27.21*** (0.07) [77.4%]	-27.22*** (0.07) [77.4%]	-11.85*** (0.06) [70.9%]	26.24*** (0.14) [74.6%]	26.22*** (0.14) [74.6%]	9.02*** (0.08) [54.0%]
TOTAL Energies	-27.34*** (0.10) [77.8%]	-27.33*** (0.11) [77.7%]	-13.14*** (0.10) [78.6%]	26.58*** (0.20) [75.6%]	26.57*** (0.20) [75.6%]	10.47*** (0.12) [62.7%]
<i>Other Vertically Integrated</i>						
ESSO	-26.91*** (0.10) [76.5%]	-26.90*** (0.11) [76.5%]	-12.48*** (0.10) [74.7%]	24.08*** (0.18) [68.5%]	22.56*** (0.19) [64.2%]	7.06*** (0.14) [42.3%]
JET	-26.00*** (0.12) [73.9%]	-26.01*** (0.12) [74.0%]	-11.89*** (0.11) [71.2%]	24.36*** (0.23) [69.3%]	24.36*** (0.25) [69.3%]	8.34*** (0.14) [49.9%]
<i>Independent</i>						
BFT	-26.79*** (0.22) [76.2%]	-26.86*** (0.25) [76.4%]	-12.94*** (0.17) [77.4%]	23.97*** (0.29) [68.2%]	23.73*** (0.31) [67.5%]	8.14*** (0.17) [48.7%]
AVIA	-25.58*** (0.18) [72.8%]	-25.52*** (0.19) [72.6%]	-11.50*** (0.13) [68.8%]	22.66*** (0.24) [64.4%]	22.50*** (0.25) [64.0%]	7.82*** (0.15) [46.8%]

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

RDiT estimates indicate the effect of the tax intervention on retail prices in cents per liter. Average Pass-Through in squared brackets is given by $\hat{\rho} = 100 \times \widehat{\beta}^{RD} / \Delta tax$. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as hour of the day, weekday, and station fixed effects. Standard errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level.

Figure A.4: Tax Pass-Through (%) by HHI over Market Boundaries



Note: Heterogeneous pass-through levels for E5 and Diesel of the tax (a) reduction and (b) subsequent increase by market concentration quartiles over alternative market delineations. Each bar indicates the pass-through difference $\Delta\hat{\rho}_{HHI_Q} = 100 \times \widehat{\beta}_{HHI_Q} / \Delta tax$ with 95% confidence intervals relative to the bottom HHI quartile. Analogous regression results are presented in table A.7.

Table A.7: Heterogeneous Pass-Through across Alternative Market Delineations

	Tax Reduction			Tax Increase		
	3 km	4 km	5 km	3 km	4 km	5 km
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Super E5</i>						
TR	-27.36*** (0.07)	-27.43*** (0.07)	-27.42*** (0.08)	25.33*** (0.11)	25.20*** (0.11)	25.19*** (0.12)
TR × HHI Q ₂	0.58*** (0.11)	0.60*** (0.11)	0.50*** (0.11)	0.04 (0.15)	0.23 (0.16)	0.16 (0.16)
TR × HHI Q ₃	0.58*** (0.11)	0.65*** (0.12)	0.68*** (0.12)	-0.40*** (0.15)	-0.34** (0.16)	-0.25 (0.16)
TR × HHI Q ₄	1.07*** (0.14)	1.13*** (0.13)	1.25*** (0.13)	-0.52*** (0.17)	-0.17 (0.15)	-0.19 (0.17)
Constant	13.02*** (0.04)	13.08*** (0.04)	13.07*** (0.04)	-6.71*** (0.06)	-6.63*** (0.06)	-6.52*** (0.06)
Observations	5,489,722	5,489,722	5,489,722	5,553,485	5,553,485	5,553,485
<i>Super E10</i>						
TR	-27.35*** (0.07)	-27.40*** (0.08)	-27.41*** (0.07)	25.19*** (0.12)	25.08*** (0.12)	25.06*** (0.11)
TR × HHI Q ₂	0.56*** (0.11)	0.54*** (0.11)	0.52*** (0.11)	0.10 (0.16)	0.24 (0.16)	0.18 (0.16)
TR × HHI Q ₃	0.52*** (0.12)	0.61*** (0.13)	0.61*** (0.12)	-0.38** (0.16)	-0.31* (0.16)	-0.19 (0.16)
TR × HHI Q ₄	0.92*** (0.14)	1.00*** (0.13)	1.13*** (0.14)	-0.46** (0.18)	-0.14 (0.17)	-0.15 (0.17)
Constant	13.00*** (0.04)	13.06*** (0.04)	13.06*** (0.04)	-6.56*** (0.06)	-6.51*** (0.06)	-6.38*** (0.06)
Observations	5,297,838	5,297,838	5,297,838	5,352,625	5,352,625	5,352,625

Table A.7. continued

	Tax Reduction			Tax Increase		
	3 km	4 km	5 km	3 km	4 km	5 km
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Diesel</i>						
TR	-12.97*** (0.06)	-12.96*** (0.06)	-12.91*** (0.06)	8.60*** (0.06)	8.60*** (0.07)	8.56*** (0.07)
TR × HHI Q ₂	0.58*** (0.09)	0.44*** (0.09)	0.38*** (0.09)	0.24*** (0.09)	0.20** (0.10)	0.20** (0.09)
TR × HHI Q ₃	0.60*** (0.09)	0.64*** (0.09)	0.51*** (0.09)	0.30*** (0.09)	0.16* (0.10)	0.35*** (0.09)
TR × HHI Q ₄	0.65*** (0.11)	0.70*** (0.10)	0.76*** (0.10)	0.36*** (0.10)	0.54*** (0.10)	0.56*** (0.10)
Constant	-0.61*** (0.04)	-0.59*** (0.05)	-0.64*** (0.05)	5.16*** (0.05)	5.21*** (0.05)	5.33*** (0.05)
Observations	5,605,432	5,605,432	5,605,432	5,670,471	5,670,471	5,670,471

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01.

Heterogeneous pass-through estimates by market concentration quartiles over alternative market delineations. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as hour of the day, weekday, and station fixed effects. Standard errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level.

Table A.8: Heterogeneous Pass-Through by HHI over Vertical Integration

	Tax Reduction			Tax Increase		
	oligopol.	oth. int.	indep.	oligopol.	oth. int.	indep.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Super E5</i>						
TR	-27.38*** (0.10)	-27.50*** (0.13)	-27.39*** (0.15)	26.18*** (0.18)	24.29*** (0.21)	24.92*** (0.20)
TR × HHI Q ₂	0.38*** (0.15)	0.56*** (0.20)	0.92*** (0.22)	0.23 (0.25)	0.29 (0.32)	0.00 (0.29)
TR × HHI Q ₃	0.28* (0.16)	0.62*** (0.21)	0.92*** (0.25)	-0.35 (0.24)	-0.48 (0.32)	-0.33 (0.27)
TR × HHI Q ₄	0.46*** (0.18)	0.49* (0.26)	1.60*** (0.22)	-0.31 (0.26)	0.15 (0.35)	-0.20 (0.26)
Constant	13.01*** (0.06)	12.99*** (0.07)	13.18*** (0.09)	-7.28*** (0.09)	-6.46*** (0.10)	-6.09*** (0.11)
Observations	2,032,509	1,328,239	2,128,974	2,031,915	1,350,051	2,171,519

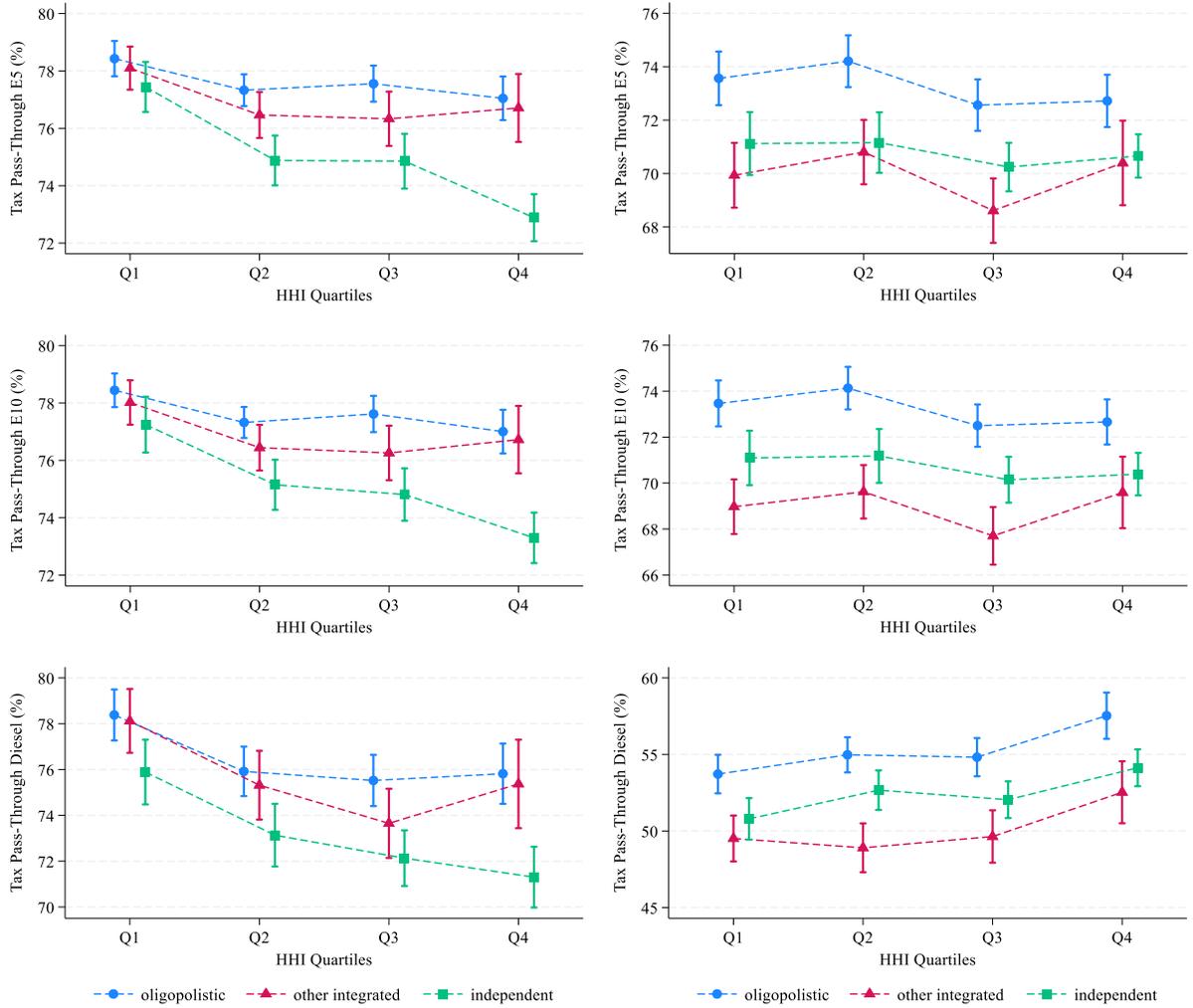
Table A.8. continued

	Tax Reduction			Tax Increase		
	oligopol.	oth. int.	indep.	oligopol.	oth. int.	indep.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Super E10</i>						
TR	-27.39*** (0.11)	-27.47*** (0.14)	-27.33*** (0.16)	26.17*** (0.18)	23.96*** (0.21)	24.88*** (0.21)
TR × HHI Q ₂	0.39** (0.16)	0.54*** (0.21)	0.75*** (0.23)	0.24 (0.25)	0.22 (0.30)	0.02 (0.30)
TR × HHI Q ₃	0.27 (0.17)	0.62*** (0.23)	0.86*** (0.23)	-0.34 (0.25)	-0.45 (0.31)	-0.36 (0.27)
TR × HHI Q ₄	0.48*** (0.18)	0.46* (0.26)	1.39*** (0.23)	-0.30 (0.26)	0.21 (0.36)	-0.29 (0.27)
Constant	13.02*** (0.06)	12.97*** (0.07)	13.12*** (0.09)	-7.32*** (0.09)	-6.00*** (0.11)	-6.07*** (0.11)
Observations	2,017,091	1,315,624	1,965,123	2,012,190	1,338,688	2,001,747
<i>Diesel</i>						
TR	-12.80*** (0.09)	-13.11*** (0.12)	-12.92*** (0.12)	9.25*** (0.11)	7.95*** (0.12)	8.46*** (0.12)
TR × HHI Q ₂	0.40*** (0.14)	0.47*** (0.18)	0.47*** (0.17)	0.22 (0.14)	-0.11 (0.19)	0.30* (0.17)
TR × HHI Q ₃	0.45*** (0.14)	0.76*** (0.19)	0.63*** (0.16)	0.19 (0.15)	0.01 (0.19)	0.20 (0.16)
TR × HHI Q ₄	0.39** (0.15)	0.47** (0.21)	0.76*** (0.17)	0.64*** (0.17)	0.50** (0.21)	0.54*** (0.16)
Constant	-0.41*** (0.07)	-0.58*** (0.08)	-0.87*** (0.09)	4.36*** (0.08)	5.82*** (0.09)	5.56*** (0.09)
Observations	2,032,750	1,328,246	2,244,436	2,032,344	1,350,050	2,288,077

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01.

Heterogeneous pass-through estimates by market concentration quartiles over brand categories. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as hour of the day, weekday, and station fixed effects. Standard errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level. The HHI is based on a 4-kilometer market delineation.

Figure A.5: Tax Pass-Through (%) by HHI and Vertical Integration



(a) Tax Reduction

(b) Tax Increase

Note: Heterogeneous pass-through rates during the (a) tax reduction and (b) subsequent tax increase, shown by market concentration quartiles and brand categories. Each point represents a pass-through estimate $\hat{\rho}_{kj} = 100 \times \widehat{\beta}_{kj} / \Delta tax$ for brand category k and HHI quartile j , calculated as a linear combination of regression coefficients. The 95% confidence intervals are derived by the delta method. The HHI is based on a 4-kilometer market delineation. Corresponding regression results are reported in Tables A.9.

Table A.9: Heterogeneous Pass-Through by HHI and Vertical Integration

	Tax Reduction			Tax Increase		
	Super E5	Super E10	Diesel	Super E5	Super E10	Diesel
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
TR	-27.58*** (0.11)	-27.58*** (0.11)	-13.10*** (0.09)	25.87*** (0.18)	25.83*** (0.18)	8.98*** (0.11)
TR × oth. vert. int.	0.12 (0.18)	0.15 (0.17)	0.04 (0.16)	-1.28*** (0.29)	-1.58*** (0.27)	-0.70*** (0.17)
TR × indep.	0.35* (0.20)	0.42** (0.21)	0.42*** (0.15)	-0.86*** (0.28)	-0.83*** (0.28)	-0.49*** (0.16)
TR × HHI Q ₂	0.39** (0.15)	0.39*** (0.14)	0.41*** (0.13)	0.23 (0.25)	0.23 (0.24)	0.21 (0.15)
TR × HHI Q ₃	0.31* (0.16)	0.29* (0.16)	0.48*** (0.14)	-0.35 (0.25)	-0.34 (0.24)	0.18 (0.15)
TR × HHI Q ₄	0.49*** (0.18)	0.51*** (0.17)	0.43*** (0.15)	-0.30 (0.26)	-0.28 (0.26)	0.64*** (0.17)
TR × oth. vert. int. × HHI Q ₂	0.19 (0.25)	0.16 (0.24)	0.06 (0.22)	0.08 (0.41)	-0.01 (0.38)	-0.31 (0.24)
TR × oth. vert. int. × HHI Q ₃	0.31 (0.26)	0.33 (0.27)	0.27 (0.23)	-0.11 (0.39)	-0.11 (0.40)	-0.16 (0.25)
TR × oth. vert. int. × HHI Q ₄	0.00 (0.31)	-0.05 (0.31)	0.03 (0.26)	0.46 (0.45)	0.50 (0.43)	-0.13 (0.28)
TR × indep. × HHI Q ₂	0.51* (0.29)	0.34 (0.28)	0.05 (0.21)	-0.21 (0.39)	-0.20 (0.39)	0.10 (0.21)
TR × indep. × HHI Q ₃	0.60** (0.28)	0.57* (0.29)	0.15 (0.21)	0.04 (0.37)	0.01 (0.37)	0.02 (0.21)
TR × indep. × HHI Q ₄	1.12*** (0.28)	0.88*** (0.30)	0.34 (0.23)	0.13 (0.35)	0.04 (0.37)	-0.08 (0.23)
Constant	13.12*** (0.06)	13.11*** (0.06)	-0.21*** (0.07)	-7.25*** (0.10)	-7.29*** (0.10)	4.35*** (0.09)
Observations	5,489,722	5,297,838	5,605,432	5,553,485	5,352,625	5,670,471

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01.

Heterogeneous pass-through estimates by market concentration quartiles and brand categories. Standard errors are derived by the delta method. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as hour of the day, weekday, and station fixed effects. Standard errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level. The HHI is based on a 4-kilometer market delineation.

B Appendix

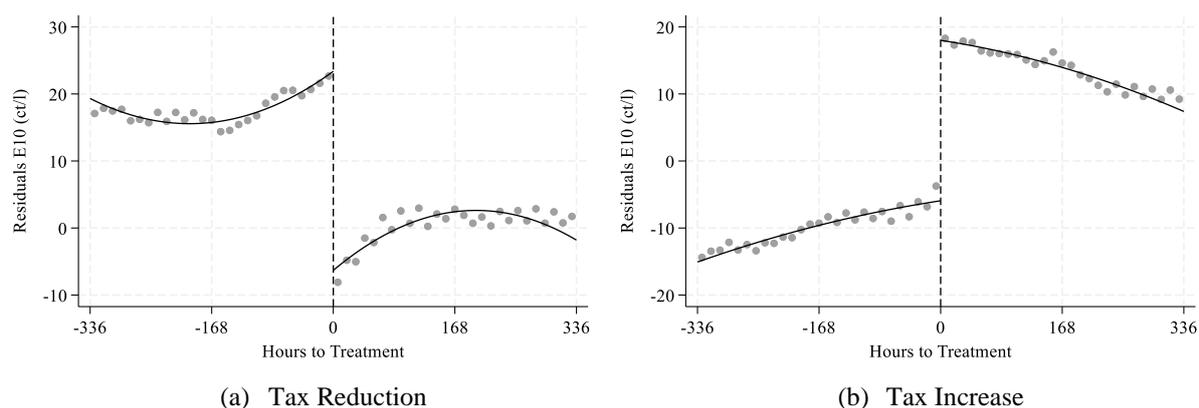
Table B.1: Average Pass-Through of the German Fuel Discount - Super E10

	Tax Reduction				Tax Increase			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
TR ($\widehat{\beta}_{RD}$)	-29.70***	-25.84***	-28.06***	-26.88***	23.94***	23.32***	25.60***	25.03***
	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.07)	(0.05)
Constant	23.38***	14.55***	15.60***	12.78***	-5.93***	-6.20***	-5.87***	-6.54***
	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.05)	(0.02)
Seasonality	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supply Shifter		✓		✓		✓		✓
Demand Shifter			✓	✓			✓	✓
TR ($\hat{\rho}$)	[84.5%]	[73.5%]	[79.8%]	[76.5%]	[68.1%]	[66.3%]	[72.8%]	[71.1%]
Observations	5,738,903	5,545,793	5,448,532	5,297,838	5,786,799	5,603,801	5,493,507	5,352,625

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

RDiT estimates indicate the effect of the tax intervention on retail prices in cents per liter. Average Pass-Through in squared brackets is given by $\hat{\rho} = 100 \times \widehat{\beta}_{RD} / \Delta tax$. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as hour of the day, weekday, and station fixed effects. Standard errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level.

Figure B.1: RDiT Plot (E10) - Average Nationwide Effect of the Fuel Discount in Germany 2022



Note: Graphical representation of the RDiT during the (a) tax reduction and (b) tax increase. Each point represents average residuals within equally spaced bins across roadside stations, accounting for hour of day and weekday fixed effects. The solid line represents the quadratic time trend before and after the treatment, each for a period of 336 hours.

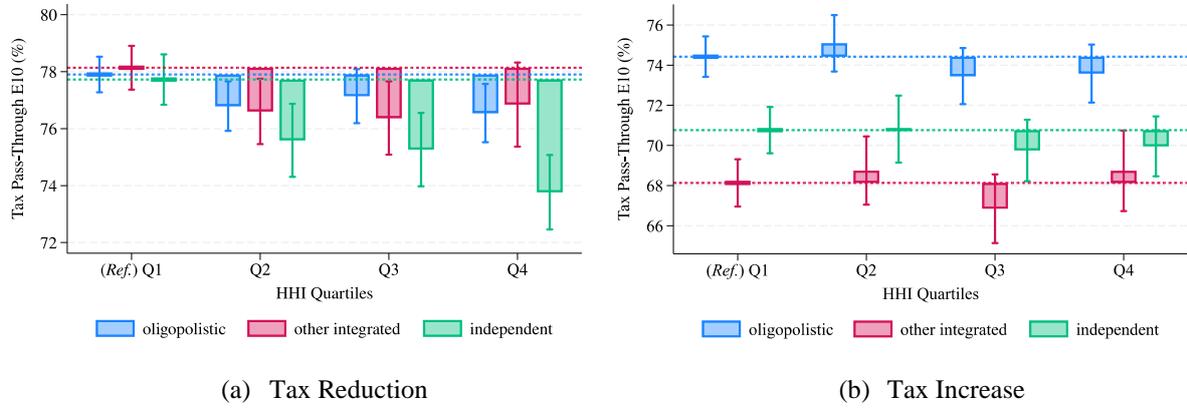
Table B.2: Heterogeneous Pass-Through of the German Fuel Discount - Super E10

	Tax Reduction				Tax Increase			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
TR	-27.30*** (0.05)	-27.47*** (0.06)	-27.01*** (0.05)	-27.40*** (0.08)	25.76*** (0.09)	25.08*** (0.09)	25.12*** (0.08)	25.08*** (0.12)
<i>Brand Category</i>								
TR × oth. vert. int.	0.24** (0.10)				-1.51*** (0.15)			
TR × indep.	0.94*** (0.10)				-0.92*** (0.13)			
<i>Regional Typology</i>								
TR × intermed.		0.59*** (0.09)				-0.10 (0.12)		
TR × rural		1.67*** (0.13)				-0.06 (0.16)		
<i>Dist. Next Cxomp.</i>								
TR × (1≤dist.<3)			0.04 (0.10)				-0.09 (0.13)	
TR × (3≤dist.)			0.78*** (0.15)				-0.42** (0.17)	
<i>Herfindahl-Index</i>								
TR × HHI Q ₂				0.54*** (0.11)				0.24 (0.16)
TR × HHI Q ₃				0.61*** (0.13)				-0.31* (0.16)
TR × HHI Q ₄				1.00*** (0.13)				-0.14 (0.17)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	13.01*** (0.03)	13.47*** (0.03)	12.84*** (0.03)	13.06*** (0.04)	-7.24*** (0.05)	-6.46*** (0.05)	-6.49*** (0.04)	-6.51*** (0.06)
Observations	5,297,838	5,297,838	5,297,838	5,297,838	5,352,625	5,352,625	5,352,625	5,352,625

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01.

First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as hour of the day, weekday, and station fixed effects. Standard errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level. The HHI is based on a 4-kilometer market delineation.

Figure B.2: Tax Pass-Through (%) by HHI over Vertical Integration for E10



Note: Heterogeneous pass-through levels for E10 of the tax (a) reduction and (b) subsequent increase by market concentration quartiles over brand categories. Each bar indicates the pass-through difference $\Delta \hat{\beta}_{HHI_Q} = 100 \times \widehat{\beta}_{HHI_Q} / \Delta tax$ with 95% confidence intervals relative to the bottom HHI quartile. The HHI is based on a 4-kilometer market delineation Analogous regression results are presented in table B.2.

C Appendix

Table C.1: Average Pass-Through of the German Fuel Discount - Super E5 (Highway Stations)

	Tax Reduction				Tax Increase			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<i>Super E5</i>								
TR ($\widehat{\beta}_{RD}$)	-32.61*** (0.31)	-25.66*** (0.38)	-30.92*** (0.31)	-27.04*** (0.37)	29.33*** (0.43)	27.52*** (0.33)	31.09*** (0.56)	29.33*** (0.35)
Constant	27.07*** (0.31)	15.88*** (0.31)	19.39*** (0.25)	14.51*** (0.30)	-14.12*** (0.34)	-13.61*** (0.28)	-13.40*** (0.56)	-13.69*** (0.21)
TR ($\hat{\rho}$)	[92.7%]	[73.0%]	[87.9%]	[76.9%]	[83.4%]	[78.3%]	[88.4%]	[83.4%]
Observations	137,515	113,346	132,555	109,888	147,019	132,130	141,800	128,100
<i>Super E10</i>								
TR ($\widehat{\beta}_{RD}$)	-32.69*** (0.31)	-25.68*** (0.40)	-30.98*** (0.32)	-27.09*** (0.37)	29.36*** (0.43)	27.53*** (0.32)	31.09*** (0.57)	29.29*** (0.37)
Constant	27.05*** (0.31)	15.90*** (0.33)	19.37*** (0.26)	14.52*** (0.30)	-14.03*** (0.35)	-13.49*** (0.29)	-13.23*** (0.56)	-13.49*** (0.22)
TR ($\hat{\rho}$)	[93.0%]	[73.0%]	[88.1%]	[77.0%]	[83.5%]	[78.3%]	[88.4%]	[83.3%]
Observations	134,132	110,022	129,304	106,676	143,575	128,726	138,491	124,811
<i>Diesel</i>								
TR ($\widehat{\beta}_{RD}$)	-14.69*** (0.14)	-11.61*** (0.20)	-14.00*** (0.14)	-12.42*** (0.19)	11.84*** (0.27)	9.43*** (0.22)	13.26*** (0.38)	10.39*** (0.32)
Constant	6.02*** (0.16)	-0.07 (0.17)	1.98*** (0.17)	-0.81*** (0.17)	1.24*** (0.21)	1.92*** (0.18)	1.79*** (0.33)	2.15*** (0.20)
TR ($\hat{\rho}$)	[87.9%]	[69.5%]	[83.8%]	[74.3%]	[70.9%]	[56.4%]	[79.4%]	[62.2%]
Observations	137,534	113,365	132,573	109,906	147,019	132,130	141,800	128,100
Seasonality	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supply Shifter		✓		✓		✓		✓
Demand Shifter			✓	✓			✓	✓

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

RDiT estimates indicate the effect of the tax intervention on retail prices in cents per liter. Average Pass-Through in squared brackets is given by $\hat{\rho} = 100 \times \widehat{\beta}_{RD} / \Delta tax$. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as hour of the day, weekday, and station fixed effects. Standard errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level.

Table C.2: Robustness - Tax Reduction (Highway Stations)

Bandwidth	10 days	12 days		14 days		16 days
Donut	9 hours	9 hours	0 hours	9 hours	18 hours	9 hours
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Super E5</i>						
TR	-25.97*** (0.30)	-26.56*** (0.32)	-27.16*** (0.32)	-27.04*** (0.37)	-27.20*** (0.39)	-26.88*** (0.35)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	12.76*** (0.32)	13.89*** (0.33)	14.40*** (0.28)	14.51*** (0.30)	15.13*** (0.33)	14.44*** (0.30)
Observations	80,044	94,483	112,856	109,888	105,789	125,041
Adjusted R^2	0.767	0.758	0.747	0.754	0.752	0.751
<i>Super E10</i>						
TR	-26.04*** (0.31)	-26.62*** (0.34)	-27.22*** (0.34)	-27.09*** (0.37)	-27.28*** (0.41)	-26.90*** (0.36)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	12.80*** (0.33)	13.92*** (0.35)	14.40*** (0.28)	14.52*** (0.30)	15.15*** (0.33)	14.44*** (0.31)
Observations	77,782	91,755	109,562	106,676	102,685	121,339
Adjusted R^2	0.764	0.755	0.744	0.751	0.749	0.748
<i>Diesel</i>						
TR	-12.23*** (0.19)	-12.08*** (0.18)	-13.16*** (0.18)	-12.42*** (0.19)	-11.26*** (0.24)	-12.49*** (0.20)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	-1.05*** (0.19)	-1.06*** (0.18)	-0.82*** (0.17)	-0.81*** (0.17)	-1.11*** (0.19)	-0.76*** (0.17)
Observations	80,055	94,494	11,2874	109,906	105,807	125,060
Adjusted R^2	0.434	0.418	0.440	0.413	0.369	0.416

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Pass-through estimates for alternate bandwidth and donut sizes. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as hour of the day, weekday, and station fixed effects. Standard Errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level.

Table C.3: Robustness - Tax Increase (Highway Stations)

Bandwidth	10 days	12 days		14 days		16 days
Donut	9 hours	9 hours	0 hours	9 hours	18 hours	9 hours
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Super E5</i>						
TR	26.42*** (0.31)	28.13*** (0.32)	28.97*** (0.32)	29.33*** (0.35)	29.53*** (0.46)	29.44*** (0.31)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	-12.21*** (0.22)	-13.30*** (0.21)	-13.36*** (0.20)	-13.69*** (0.21)	-14.00*** (0.25)	-13.57*** (0.25)
Observations	92,332	109,191	131,254	128,100	123,785	147,258
Adjusted R^2	0.704	0.694	0.684	0.686	0.681	0.679
<i>Super E10</i>						
TR	26.40*** (0.34)	28.11*** (0.33)	28.92*** (0.32)	29.29*** (0.37)	29.47*** (0.43)	29.37*** (0.33)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	-11.99*** (0.23)	-13.10*** (0.22)	-13.15*** (0.20)	-13.49*** (0.22)	-13.81*** (0.25)	-13.35*** (0.27)
Observations	90,000	106,398	127,883	124,811	120,604	143,473
Adjusted R^2	0.702	0.692	0.682	0.684	0.679	0.677
<i>Diesel</i>						
TR	10.87*** (0.21)	10.99*** (0.23)	10.78*** (0.27)	10.39*** (0.32)	9.59*** (0.38)	9.30*** (0.26)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constant	1.38*** (0.16)	1.41*** (0.17)	2.15*** (0.16)	2.15*** (0.20)	2.54*** (0.24)	2.80*** (0.23)
Observations	92,332	109,191	131,254	128,100	123,785	147,258
Adjusted R^2	0.330	0.363	0.387	0.389	0.385	0.410

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$.

Pass-through estimates for alternate bandwidth and donut sizes. First stage covariates include crude oil prices, exchange rates, traffic volumes, weather, holiday indicators, as well as hour of the day, weekday, and station fixed effects. Standard Errors are block-bootstrapped sampled 1,000 times at the station level.