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IMPORT COMPETITION, HETEROGENEOUS PREFERENCES OF MANAGERS,  
AND PRODUCTIVITY

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### **ABSTRACT**

When managers have objectives beyond maximizing monetary profits, inefficiencies may arise. An increase in competition may then force managers to improve the productivity of the firm in order to ensure survival. While this hypothesis has received ample theoretical attention, empirical evidence is scarce, mainly because preferences of managers are typically unobserved. In this paper, we exploit the fact that a large literature has documented specific non-monetary preferences of family managers. Using Spanish firm-level data, we compare how family-managed and professionally-managed firms react to import competition shocks. We find that import competition leads to productivity increases in family-managed firms that are initially unproductive. Productivity improvements are driven by family management as opposed to family ownership or non-managing family members. Furthermore, we show that these managers increase efficiency by reducing material usage, which is consistent with them trying to increase their short-term cash flow in order to survive. Finally, productivity improvements seem to be particularly pronounced in multi-generational family firms that also introduce organizational changes.

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An Online Appendix is available at  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ikBaYIpLw5A20BHrlhi0wt6guJ6FSe0/view>

# 1 Introduction

How competition affects firm-level productivity and innovation is a central question in economics. In particular, the answer to this question affects the assessment of important policies such as trade liberalization or industry deregulation. A theoretical literature dating back to Leibenstein (1966) has shown that the role of the manager, the key decision maker of the firm, is critical. In particular, when a manager has preferences that include private benefits and costs that go beyond monetary profits, a so called *X*-inefficiency may arise.<sup>1</sup> In this case, as competition increases the bankruptcy risk of a firm, thereby putting downward pressure on profits; a manager may cut “slack” as a response and make the firm more productive to ensure the survival of the firm (e.g., Hart, 1983; Hermalin, 1992; Schmidt, 1997; Raith, 2003).

While this “preference hypothesis” has received ample theoretical attention, empirical evidence on it is relatively scarce (e.g., Schmitz Jr, 2005). This is due to the fact that researchers typically do not observe variation in the preferences of managers. In this paper we exploit a finding from the literature on family firms: family managers have been shown to have very distinct preferences that include more than just enjoying monetary profits. For example, family managers care about building a legacy and/or creating and sustaining the firm for their descendants. Family managers also take a strong pride in their firm and have the ability to use the firm’s resources for personal purposes or to provide jobs for relatives.<sup>2</sup> All of these examples generate a specific non-monetary private benefit for the family manager, which is lost when the firm ceases to exist. In line with this motivation, family managers in Spain report that their most important strategic objective is survival.<sup>3</sup> At the same time, family firms state that dealing with increasing competition is their main challenge.<sup>4</sup> In this setting, when market competition intensifies, family managers may try to make the firm more productive in order to avoid bankruptcy.

In the empirical part of this paper we compare how family and professional managers react to a shock to import competition, using Spanish firm-level data between 1993 and 2007. The Spanish context and data present a unique scenario to test whether managerial preferences affect the productivity response to competition for the following reasons. First, the Spanish data set reports family management versus professional management for family owned firms. Family management can coincide with family ownership, but the Spanish data

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<sup>1</sup>Note that the traditional principal-agency problem arises only when one assumes that principals, i.e., owners, want to maximize profits, but the agents, i.e., managers, want to maximize something else. More generally, however, owners’ objective functions may also include elements other than monetary profits.

<sup>2</sup>See, e.g., Demsetz and Lehn (1985); Bertrand and Mullainathan (2003); Bandiera et al. (2014a); Hurst and Pugsley (2011); Bertrand and Schoar (2006); Belenzon et al. (2014); Bandiera et al. (2014b)

<sup>3</sup>In a survey implemented by the Spanish *Instituto de La Empresa Familiar* that asks family firms about their main strategic objectives, the most frequent answer by a large margin is guaranteeing the survival of the firm (69.1%), followed by increasing the profits of the firm (48.7%) (Instituto de la Empresa Familiar, 2018).

<sup>4</sup>51% of family firms report that increasing competition is their main challenge; the second most frequent answer is the war for talent (40%) (KPMG, 2017).

allows us to differentiate between the two. Family management may also be correlated with the number of non-managing family members, which is also reported in the Spanish data. These distinctions are important in order to verify the theoretical mechanism proposed in the literature, as many unobservable characteristics related to family ownership and family culture inside the firm (other than the preferences of the managers) can be controlled for. Second, there were large increases in import competition, e.g., driven by increased European integration and the unprecedented increase in Chinese exports that many other economies have also faced.<sup>5</sup> Importantly, we will exploit a specific feature of the Spanish setting: Spain's import tariffs are determined at the EU level and therefore arguably exogenous to Spanish firms.

Our main empirical specification studies how changes in tariffs set by the EU affect changes in the labor productivity of Spanish firms, distinguishing between family- and professionally-managed (i.e., non-family-managed) firms. We allow the effects to differ by the initial productivity of firms (even differently for family- and non-family-managed firms) so as not to confound the effects of family management with the effects of initial productivity that has been previously shown to be different in the literature.<sup>6</sup> In essence, we are comparing the productivity response of firms with and without family managers, holding their initial productivity constant. We estimate a model in first differences of productivity changes on tariff changes to absorb time-invariant firm-specific or industry-specific characteristics. We add year fixed effects to absorb macroeconomic shocks, and industry fixed effects to allow for industry-specific *trends* (since the model is already in first differences). Our results are robust to more demanding specifications such as controlling for region-specific trends, industry-year specific shocks to productivity growth rates, and firm-specific trends. While we focus on labor productivity as our main outcome variable because of its transparency, the results are robust to using a TFP measure in the spirit of the De Loecker (2007, 2013) modification to Olley and Pakes (1996).<sup>7</sup>

Our empirical analysis uncovers a specific, robust pattern of heterogeneous responses. After a reduction in import tariffs, the family firms in the left tail of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., initially unproductive firms) increase productivity, while we do not observe

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<sup>5</sup>E.g., US (Autor et al., 2013; Hombert and Matray, 2017), Canada (Kuang et al., 2017), UK (Bloom et al., 2016), South Korea (Ahn et al., 2018), Vietnam (Dang, 2017), Peru (Medina, 2018).

<sup>6</sup>Studies focusing on heterogeneous effects of import competition have often found positive effects to be present in large or productive firms, while effects for small or less productive firms have been found to be smaller, or even negative. For some examples, see Muendler, 2004; Schor, 2004; Fernandes, 2007; Gorodnichenko et al., 2010; Iacovone, 2012; Iacovone et al., 2011; Fernandes and Paunov, 2009; Autor et al., 2017; Bombardini et al., 2017; Xu and Gong, 2017; Ahn et al., 2018.

<sup>7</sup>Specifically, we use the Olley and Pakes (1996)-type proxy estimator augmented with a De Loecker (2007; 2013)-type correction that allows for the management type and import tariffs to directly affect the evolution of firm-level total factor productivity (TFP) to estimate firm-level TFP. In addition, we allow family firms to have different technologies from non-family firms by including a dummy variable for family firms in the production function.

significant changes in the productivity of initially productive family firms or professionally-managed firms. The key theoretical mechanism we are able to identify is that increased product market competition (due to lower tariffs) incentivizes managers in firms that are more likely to exit (i.e., initially unproductive firms) *and* have X-inefficiency (i.e., family firms) to exert more effort in order to prevent their firms from going bankrupt.

In our robustness checks we rule out two types of alternative explanations. First, we verify that family management, rather than other characteristics of family-managed firms, drive our results by implementing a variety of checks. For instance, we conduct horse-race regressions between family management and alternative firm-level characteristics such as firm size, R&D intensity, or capital intensity. We also show that our results are not driven by family ownership or by a switch towards professional managers. As a placebo exercise, we check whether family members in non-managing positions generate similar results. While we are admittedly not able to exploit exogenous variation in family management, excluding a large number of alternative explanations makes it unlikely that characteristics other than family management are generating our results.

Second, we check whether the productivity response is driven by import competition rather than other potentially correlated shocks such as improved access to imported inputs or foreign markets. However, controlling for changes of tariffs on inputs or the changes in foreign tariffs faced by Spanish exporters does not change our results. Furthermore, the affected firms do not show significant changes in the volume of imported technologies or exports.

Why is the productivity response to import competition concentrated among family-managed firms that are initially unproductive? We provide a stylized model that can rationalize our findings. In the model, all managers care about the profits of the firm, but family managers derive an additional, constant utility from being a part of the family firm. Importantly, they lose this additional utility if the firm goes bankrupt. This additional utility captures the variety of private benefits to the family manager mentioned above. The profits of the firm depend positively on productivity. Each firm receives an initial productivity draw but managers can increase the productivity by exerting effort, which entails private costs. Managers choose their effort in order to maximize utility. If the initial productivity of the firm is far from the exit cutoff, professional and family managers choose the same level of effort, which increases in the initial productivity. However, if the initial productivity of a firm is low, family managers exert effort in order to avoid bankruptcy by making the firm break even, while professional managers let the firm go bankrupt.

When an import competition shock hits the economy, potential profits of all firms fall. This increases the bankruptcy risk for unproductive firms. Since family managers care more about the existence of their firms, they exert an extra effort to avoid bankruptcy. If the bankruptcy risk does not change, i.e., for firms with high initial productivity, there is no

change in productivity.

The model can rationalize our key empirical findings concerning how productivity responds to import competition. Furthermore, in contrast to alternative explanations that we are aware of, the model matches additional empirical patterns. First, we show that the productivity increases in the data are driven by increases in efficiency improvements rather than innovation, which is in line with the motive of managers to increase cash flow on the short run in order to ensure survival. Second, the empirical findings are particularly strong for firms with a larger number of family managers, which are more likely to be multi-generational businesses for which the mechanism is most relevant. Third, these multi-generational family firms make organizational changes in order to improve efficiency, which are likely to cost managerial effort but can be implemented relatively quickly. Fourth, the model is consistent with the cross-sectional differences in the productivity distribution of family firms compared to non-family firms. For example, the model predicts that the average productivity of family-managed firms is lower than that of professionally managed firms. We obtain this prediction not by assumption; instead, it is generated by the additional incentive for family managers to keep their firms alive. Finally, our model predicts that unproductive non-family firms are more likely to exit than family firms; and we find empirical support for this prediction.

Our paper is related to three strands of literature. First, our paper contributes to the literature on how trade liberalization affects firm productivity and innovation.<sup>8</sup> Trade liberalization tends to affect firms in different ways. While papers focusing on the effect of access to export markets (e.g., Lileeva and Trefler, 2010; Bustos, 2011; Coelli et al., 2018; Mayer et al., 2016) or access to intermediate inputs (e.g., Amiti and Konings, 2007; Brandt et al., 2017; Fielser and Harrison, 2018) tend to find positive effects on innovation and productivity, studies focusing on the effect of import competition have found more divided results (e.g., Pavcnik (2002); Amiti and Konings (2007); Bloom et al. (2016); Autor et al. (2017); Bombardini et al. (2017)). Effects have also been found to be heterogeneous by firm size or initial productivity. In this paper we focus on a novel dimension of heterogeneity, family management, that may affect productivity responses to trade liberalization. Given that most developing countries host a large number of family firms, and that the effects of import competition on productivity for these countries have been found to be different from developed economies, studying this dimension of heterogeneity seems to be particularly important.

Second, we contribute to the literature that studies the effect of competition on firm productivity and management practices via X-inefficiency. The existing theoretical studies provide a range of models with a focus on managers with different preferences. In this literature, it

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<sup>8</sup>For a review of this literature, see Shu and Steinwender (2019). Besides within-firm productivity improvements, the literature also emphasizes that trade liberalization may increase aggregate productivity by reallocating resources towards the most efficient firms (e.g., Pavcnik, 2002). A related literature examines how foreign direct investment affects the productivity of firms (e.g., Guadalupe et al., 2012).

is assumed that managers do not maximize firm profits as they consider private benefits as well (e.g., Hart, 1983; Hermalin, 1992; Schmidt, 1997; Raith, 2003; Wu, 2011; Tello-Trillo, 2015). As a result, a common prediction is that intensified market competition leads to a higher bankruptcy risk and reduces managerial slack, as managers are willing to exert more effort in order to avoid potential bankruptcy. Recent work on management practices (e.g., Bloom and Van Reenen, 2007, 2010; Bloom et al., 2013) also finds that tougher market competition (e.g., a smaller Herfindahl index or a higher import penetration ratio in the industry) is one key force that incentivizes firms to improve their management practices and to implement organizational innovations, by using cross-sectional survey data on management practices or directly interviewing plant managers. We contribute to this literature empirically by exploring how an exogenous shock to market competition affects productivity and organizational innovations depending on the preferences of managers.

Third, we contribute to the literature on family firms.<sup>9</sup> Family firms are an important economic phenomenon. They are widespread, even in developed countries. For example, 15% of the American Fortune Global 500 firms are family firms. In Europe, 40% of large, listed companies are controlled by families.<sup>10</sup> In developing countries, family firms are even more dominant: Out of large (>\$1 billion) firms, 85% are family run in South-East Asia, 75% in Latin America, 67% in India, and around 65% in the Middle East.<sup>11</sup> Given their ubiquity, it is important to understand the decision making process of family managers better. Most papers in this literature document that family firms, and especially family-managed firms, perform worse than non-family firms.<sup>12</sup> We contribute to this literature by highlighting how economic forces, specifically increased competition, can incentivize unproductive family firms to become more productive.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the data, Section 3 describes our empirical strategy, and Section 4 shows our empirical results. Section 5 rationalizes these findings using a model with heterogeneous preferences of managers and Section 6 provides additional empirical evidence in support of the model. Section 7 concludes.

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<sup>9</sup>E.g., Shleifer and Vishny (1986); Morck et al. (1988); Shleifer and Vishny (1997); Morck et al. (2000); Anderson and Reeb (2003); Pérez-González (2006); Villalonga and Amit (2006); Bennedsen et al. (2007); Gomez-Mejia et al. (2007); Bertrand et al. (2008); Mullins and Schoar (2016).

<sup>10</sup>See <http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21629376-there-are-important-lessons-be-learnt-surprising-resilience-family-firms-relative>.

<sup>11</sup>See <http://www.economist.com/news/business/21629385-companies-controlled-founding-families-remain-surprisingly-important-and-look-set-stay>.

<sup>12</sup>E.g., Morck et al. (2000); Bertrand and Schoar (2006); Pérez-González (2006); Villalonga and Amit (2006); Bennedsen et al. (2007); Bloom and Van Reenen (2007); Bandiera et al. (2011, 2014b); Mullins and Schoar (2016); Lemos et al. (2016). This has also been documented for Spanish family firms (Gallo and Estape, 1992) and is consistent with our data. There are, however, papers in this literature arguing that family ownership is associated with better firm performance (e.g., Anderson and Reeb, 2003). For example, family ownership can facilitate monitoring inside the firm (Demsetz and Lehn, 1985; Burkart et al., 2003) and reduce short-termism (Stein, 1988, 1989; James, 1999).

## 2 Data description

We use panel data from a Spanish survey of manufacturing firms (ESEE; Encuesta Sobre Estrategias Empresariales) that is collected by the Fundación SEPI, a foundation affiliated with the Spanish Ministry of Finance and Public Administration.<sup>13</sup> The survey is designed to cover a representative sample of Spanish manufacturing firms and includes around 1,800 firms per year. The survey started in 1990: In this year, participation of firms with more than 200 employees was required, while firms with more than 10 but fewer than 200 employees were sampled via a stratified sampling approach based on detailed size and industry categories. After that, SEPI made a great effort to replace non-responding and exiting firms with firms from the same size and industry category to ensure the continuing representativeness of the sample. Since the data on capital is incomplete before 1993 (e.g., information on intangible capital and depreciation is not available) and the financial crisis in 2007 might have brought about confounding shocks, we focus on the years between 1993 and 2007, covering a total of around 4,000 observed firms.

The advantage of the Spanish data set is that it provides very rich information on several dimensions that are important for our empirical analysis.<sup>14</sup>

**Family firms.** We distinguish between family-managed and professionally-managed firms because the survey includes a variable that gives the number of “owners and working relatives who hold managing positions.”<sup>15</sup> We classify firms as family-managed firms (or family firms, in short) if this number is bigger than or equal to one in the first year of our sample, 1993. We use the first year of the sample for this definition in order to avoid a potentially endogenous definition of management type that responds to changes in competition.<sup>16</sup>

Family firms are prevalent in Spain: Table 1 shows that 41% of our observations are family firms. 58% of family firms in our sample have just one family manager, and none of the firms have more than seven family managers (see online appendix for a histogram). Consistent with the literature, family firms are on average smaller (both in terms of sales and employment), have lower productivity, and spend less on R&D.<sup>17</sup> Some of this difference is explained by family firms operating in different industries, but significant differences remain even when we control for industry fixed effects, as the last column in Table 1 shows.

The share of family firms ranges from 17% to 69% across different industries.<sup>18</sup> Family

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<sup>13</sup>For more information, see <https://www.fundacionsepi.es/investigacion/esee/en/spresentacion.asp>

<sup>14</sup>Note that additional details regarding the construction of our variables can be found in the online appendix.

<sup>15</sup>Note that an owner is not necessarily a majority owner (this is not clearly specified in the survey) and a founder is not necessarily an owner.

<sup>16</sup>In a robustness check we look at whether changes in management explain the productivity response.

<sup>17</sup>Figure E.4 in the online appendix shows the initial productivity distribution of family and non-family firms. While the average productivity of non-family firms is higher, there is a significant overlap in the distributions.

<sup>18</sup>See Figure 1 in the online appendix. In the online appendix we also show tariff changes are uncorrelated with changes in the share of family firms across industries or with the number of family managers within a firm.



management is relatively persistent: 74% of family-managed firms in 1993 are still family-managed in 2007. This finding is consistent with earlier work on Spanish family firms using different data (Gallo and Pont, 1989).

Our main regressions use information on family members in managing positions. The data set also includes information about the number of family members in non-managing positions, which we use in a placebo test to differentiate family management from other non-managerial aspects of family businesses. Furthermore we use a variable indicating whether the firm is controlled by a family group as an indicator for family ownership and thereby distinguish between family-owned and family-managed, and family-owned but professionally-managed firms. This variable, however, is available for one year at the end of our sample, which is why we use it only in robustness checks.

**Productivity.** We use labor productivity as our main measure of productivity as it is transparent and can be directly observed in the data. Since we do not want to interpret changes in output or input prices as changes in productivity, we exploit the fact that the Spanish firm-level survey provides firm-specific deflators for inputs and outputs.<sup>19</sup> Firms are asked by what percentage the sales price of its products and the purchasing price of its intermediate inputs and services have changed compared to the previous year. The price changes are supposed to be calculated as a weighted average across various final products and markets (for output prices) and a weighted average across various intermediate inputs, energy consumption, and purchased services (for input prices). We use these price changes to deflate output and intermediate inputs at the firm level (instead of using industry-wide deflators). Overall, our measure of labor productivity is therefore given as deflated sales minus deflated intermediate inputs divided by employment.<sup>20</sup>

Labor productivity does not exclude the contribution of capital to total output from the productivity measure; and productivity changes might be driven by changes in the capital stock. In robustness checks, we use the Olley and Pakes (1996)-type proxy estimator approach augmented with a De Loecker (2007; 2013)-type correction. Specifically, we allow the management type (i.e., family management or professional management), import and export tariffs to directly affect the evolution of firm productivity to estimate firm-level total factor productivity (TFP). Practically, we use a polynomial of the management type, the (import and export) tariffs, investment and capital stock to proxy for the unobserved TFP. As a result, we use this polynomial to run regressions in all three stages of the Olley and Pakes

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<sup>19</sup>Ornaghi (2006) first demonstrated the usefulness of this feature in the Spanish firm-level data. The importance of distinguishing between productivity and price changes has been noted in e.g., De Loecker (2011) and Beveren (2012).

<sup>20</sup>Notice that this price correction can only be applied to *changes* in prices, not in order to compare differences across firms. We normalize the price indices for each firm to be equal to 1 in 1993 (our base year), which means that we measure labor productivity in 1993 in values. The price adjustment therefore compares changes in productivity with respect to their initial levels in 1993.

(1996)-type estimation (additional details are provided in the online appendix).

**Tariff data.** This paper exploits variations in industry-specific import tariffs over time. We use tariffs that the EU imposes on imports from the rest of the world (“import tariffs”) to construct our main regressor. We use MFN tariffs from TRAINS (provided by UNCTAD) accessed via the WITS software provided by the World Bank.<sup>21</sup> We use the weighted average of the import tariff in each product category (ISIC Rev. 3; 244 product categories) and aggregate them to the NACECLIO industries that the Spanish data uses (20 NACECLIO categories<sup>22</sup>) by using Spanish trade shares in 1993 (to avoid endogeneity of the weights). Our results are robust to using trade shares from the previous year to calculate the industry-level tariffs. For robustness checks we calculate average tariffs that other countries impose on exports from the EU (“export tariffs”) as an indicator for export opportunities with the same methodology; and import tariffs on the inputs (“input tariffs”) of an industry based on Spanish input-output tables to control for changed access to imported inputs.

The resulting import tariffs are shown in Figure 1. Tariffs fell over time, especially during the 1990s. Important trade liberalization episodes that occurred during the sample period include several EU enlargement episodes (e.g., also studied by Berger and Nitsch, 2008; Bergin and Lin, 2012; Brouwer et al., 2008) and China’s accession to the WTO in 2001 (also studied in Bloom et al., 2016; Autor et al., 2013). A large heterogeneity of tariffs across industries is also visible. Beverages, food/tobacco, meat related products, and textiles all started with the highest tariffs. While tariffs dropped for food and drink related industries, tariffs on textiles fell very little. Tariffs for leather/fur/footwear and vehicles also changed little and remain on the higher end. Summary statistics of the tariff changes used in the regressions are given in Table F.1 of the online appendix.

### 3 Empirical strategy

We start by estimating the effects of import competition separately for the set of family-managed and professionally-managed firms. We then combine the separate regressions into a pooled regression, which has three advantages: First, it allows us to test whether coefficients are significantly different across family and non-family firms. Second, it allows us to check whether our results are robust to adding industry-times-year fixed effects. Third, it allows us to more efficiently conduct a variety of other robustness checks.

**Separate regressions.** We begin with an OLS regression of log productivity changes

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<sup>21</sup><http://wits.worldbank.org/wits/>

<sup>22</sup>The 20 industries are: meat related products; food and tobacco; beverage; textiles and clothing; leather, fur, and footwear; timber; paper; printing and publishing; chemicals; plastic and rubber products; nonmetal mineral products; basic metal products; fabricated metal products; industrial and agricultural equipment; office machinery, data processing, precision instruments and similar; electric materials and accessories; vehicles and accessories; other transportation materials; furniture; miscellaneous.

$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$  on changes in import competition  $\Delta \text{IMP}_{st}$  separately for family and non-family firms. We allow for a potential heterogeneous effect depending on the firm's log productivity in our base year 1993,  $\ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , in line with literature on heterogeneous firms and trade inspired by Melitz (2003),

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it}) = & \beta_1 \Delta \text{IMP}_{st} + \beta_2 (\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)) \\ & + \beta_3 \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) + \text{yearFE} + \text{industryFE} + \eta_{it} \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

where  $i$  denotes firm,  $s$  denotes industry, and  $t$  denotes year.

A few things should be noted: We add the interaction of import competition with initial productivity because we are interested in heterogeneous effects for firms that are initially unproductive versus those that are initially productive. Notice, however, that the magnitude of coefficient  $\beta_1$  does not directly reveal the effect of import competition on productivity for initially unproductive family firms as there are no firms with zero initial productivity. Similarly, the coefficient  $\beta_2$  tells us how the effect changes as initial productivity increases, but it does not tell us which sign the effects have for initially very productive firms. For this reason we calculate the marginal effects of import competition for firms at the 10th percentile (i.e., initially unproductive) and for firms at the 90th percentile (i.e., initially productive) of the initial productivity distribution.<sup>23</sup> For robustness, we also estimate the interaction effect non-linearly with respect to different percentiles. However, it turns out that a linear approximation works quite well.

For easier interpretation we use the *negative* of the industry- and year-specific EU import tariff, denoted as  $\text{IMP}_{st}$ , as our exogenous variation in import competition. This means when  $\text{IMP}_{st}$  increases, import competition increases due to a reduction in import tariffs. In general, it is not always clear whether tariff changes can be interpreted as exogenous to firms and industries as large companies often try to influence policy makers in order to obtain favorable tariffs. However, in the Spanish case tariffs are negotiated at the European level and it is less likely that Spanish firms are able to influence European decision making. Furthermore, many tariff changes are part of a larger political process (e.g., the EU enlargement or China's WTO accession) and therefore likely out of the control of specific Spanish firms.

Our specification allows for year fixed effects to absorb macroeconomic shocks. Since the model is in first differences, any time-invariant firm or industry characteristics are absorbed as firm fixed effects in levels drop out in the first differences specification. We follow Autor

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More specifically, we calculate marginal effects as  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$  and evaluate them at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (across all firms; i.e., including both family and non-family firms).

et al. (2017) and make the empirical specification more demanding by adding industry-level fixed effects to the estimation equation in first differences, allowing for industry specific time trends. Historically, import tariffs have fallen while productivity has increased at the industry level. These correlated trends should not be interpreted as causal evidence of a productivity response to increased import competition.

Finally, all standard errors are two-way clustered at the firm level (to allow for autocorrelation within a firm over time) and industry-year level (to allow for correlation across firms in the same industry).

**Pooled regressions.** Our main specification is a pooled OLS regression of family and non-family firms with triple interaction terms that allow for differential effects of import competition depending on a firm's management type (family vs. non-family) and initial productivity. The resulting, fully saturated regression equation is:

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it}) = & \beta_1 \cdot \Delta \text{IMP}_{st} + \beta_2 \cdot \Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \\
& + \beta_3 \cdot \Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \text{FAM93}_i + \beta_4 \cdot \Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \text{FAM93}_i \\
& + \beta_5 \cdot \text{FAM93}_i + \beta_6 \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \text{FAM93}_i + \beta_7 \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \\
& + \text{yearFE} \cdot \text{FAM93}_i + \text{industryFE} \cdot \text{FAM93}_i + \eta_{it}
\end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

We allow for family-firm-specific year and industry fixed effects. This ensures that all coefficients in this regression are identical to the coefficients obtained from the separate regressions for family and non-family firms. For example, coefficients  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  estimate the effects of import competition for non-family firms, allowing for a differential effect by initial productivity. Importantly, the advantage of the pooled regression is that it allows us to test whether the estimated effect on family firms is significantly different from that of non-family firms, which is estimated by coefficients  $\beta_3$  and  $\beta_4$  (again allowing for a differential effect by initial productivity). Since we are interested in the effect on the initially least (p10) and most (p90) productive firms, we compute marginal effects as discussed above.<sup>24</sup> In addition, we are able to compute marginal *differential* effects in these regressions. By focusing on these marginal differential effects we are implicitly implementing two difference-in-differences specifications (family versus non-family firms; before and after an import competition shock): one for initially unproductive and one for initially productive firms, which we will report

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<sup>24</sup>More specifically, we calculate the marginal effect for non-family firms as  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$  and for family-firms as  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} = \beta_1 + \beta_3 + (\beta_2 + \beta_4) \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , substituting in the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial, overall productivity distribution.

separately.<sup>25</sup> As this is the most stringent specification, we are going to focus our interpretation on these estimated effects.

Additional benefits of the pooled regression are that we are able to add industry-times-year fixed effects; and that we are able to show a large number of robustness checks in a simple and space-saving way.

## 4 Empirical results

**Separate regressions.** We start by dividing the sample into family-managed and professionally-managed firms and estimate the effect on these two samples separately in Table 2. Columns (1) and (5) already reveal that heterogeneity across these different types of firms is important: Import competition has a positive and significant effect on the labor productivity of family firms but a negative and insignificant effect on non-family firms.<sup>26</sup> Note that this difference is not driven by differences in initial productivity as we control for this.

In columns (2) and (6) we allow for additional heterogeneity with respect to initial productivity. The coefficient on import competition is large and significant for family firms and the effect decreases as the initial productivity of firms increases. Interpreting the raw coefficients is not meaningful, however, as there are no firms in the sample with an initial log productivity of zero. We therefore evaluate the estimated effects for firms at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution, which are reported in the rows below the coefficients. We can see that import competition has a large and positive effect on the productivity of initially unproductive firms, but this effect fades out and there is an insignificant effect for initially productive firms. When we implement the same exercise using the sample of non-family firms, we see negative effects for both the initially least productive firms and the initially most productive firms. However, all effects are insignificant.

In columns (3) and (7) we add region fixed effects to the regression and in columns (4) and (8) we allow for firm-specific time trends but the results change very little. Overall, there is a very robust, positive productivity response to import competition for initially unproductive family firms.<sup>27</sup>

The magnitude of this effect is sizable. In our preferred specification in column (2) of Table 2, a one percentage point reduction in the import tariff leads to a 4% increase in labor

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<sup>25</sup>The marginal differential effect is given by  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , substituting in the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial, overall productivity distribution.

<sup>26</sup>The average effect of import competition on labor productivity across all firms is positive, but insignificant (see Table F.5 in the online appendix). The magnitude is similar to findings in the literature, e.g., Fernandes (2007); Schor (2004); Amiti and Konings (2007).

<sup>27</sup>We also checked whether there are additional effects to lagged changes in import tariffs but we were not able to find significant effects (see Table F.6 in the online appendix). The immediate response is consistent with the motive to fight against bankruptcy in order to survive another day, which we present in the theoretical part of the paper.

productivity for the family firms with low initial productivity (10th percentile). Over the sample period, the import tariff fell by 0.34 percentage points per year on average, so the resulting average annual productivity increase is about 1.4% for the initially least productive family firms. A large annual import tariff reduction (95th percentile), however, would be associated with a 4.7% labor productivity increase for the initially least productive family firms.

**Non-parametric regressions.** Regression equation (3.1) imposes a linear relationship between the initial productivity and productivity changes after an import competition shock hits. The estimation might disguise a non-linear or non-monotonic relationship in the data. In order to check this, we also implement non-parametric versions of regression equation (3.1) for both types of firms:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it}) = & \beta_1 \Delta \text{IMP}_{st} + \sum_p \beta_{2p} \text{Perc93}_{pi} + \sum_p \beta_{3p} (\text{Perc93}_{pi} \cdot \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}) \\ & + \text{yearFE} + \text{industryFE} + \eta_{it}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

where  $\text{Perc93}_{pi}$  are dummy variables for firm  $i$ 's position in different percentiles  $p$  of the initial productivity distribution. We experiment with different percentiles, using halves, terciles, quartiles, and quintiles.

Figure 2 shows the effects graphically for the case of quintiles. Family firms that are in the bottom two percentiles of the initial productivity distribution respond positively to import competition but the response is smaller and insignificant for more productive firms. The pattern across percentiles suggests that the linear interaction is indeed a good approximation. In contrast, non-family firms respond negatively to import competition but the effect is mostly insignificant. This pattern is consistent across different splits of percentiles of the data (see Table F.7 in the online appendix).

**Pooled regressions.** In Table 3 we move to the pooled estimation given in regression equation (3.2) that estimates the effects jointly for family and non-family firms. Column (1) implements the pooled version of the separate regressions in columns (2) and (6) of Table 2. Using these estimates we can compute marginal effects for non-family and family firms at various points of the initial productivity distribution. Table 3 reports marginal effects at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution and in Figure 3 we report the results for the entire initial productivity distribution of family and non-family firms. The effect on family firms decreases with firms' initial productivity but it is positive and significant even for the median-sized family firms, which indicates that our estimated effect is not just relevant for a handful of unproductive family firms.

More importantly from an identification point of view, however, the pooled regression

allows us to test whether the estimated effect is statistically different between family firms and non-family firms. We implement this test in the last rows of Table 3 and see that the effect on the initially least productive family firms is indeed statistically larger than the effect on the initially least productive professionally managed firms. In order to save space and to simplify the exposition, we are going to focus on these two marginal differential effects in following tables.

The remaining columns in Table 3 add a number of different fixed effects to check the robustness of the results. In column (2), we add regional fixed effects (separately for family and non-family firms) to allow for confounding geographic trends. In column (3) we allow for industry\*year fixed effects to absorb any industry-year specific heterogeneity that might be correlated with import competition. Taking this step leaves us unable to identify the main effect of import competition but it is reassuring to see that all the interaction terms remain almost unchanged. Turning to the marginal effects, while we cannot estimate the main effects on family or non-family firms in this specification, we can identify the differential effect of interest which is still significant. In column (4) we even control for firm fixed effects, which allows for firm-specific trends in productivity (as the estimating equation is in first differences). In short, our results are robust to including these various fixed effects.<sup>28</sup>

In Table F.8 of the online appendix we provide estimates in which we restrict the sample to the period 1993 to 2000 — as can be seen in Figure 1, this was the period in which the tariffs decreased most. It is reassuring to see that our estimates are not sensitive to the time horizon, as the results are very similar; if anything, the differential effect for family versus non-family firms is slightly stronger during the early period.

**The number of family managers.** So far we have compared firms with any family managers with firms that have no family managers. Since our data includes the number of family managers, we can refine our specification and interact the effects with the number of managers. So far we have compared firms with any family managers with firms that have no family managers. Since our data includes the number of family managers, we can refine our specification and interact the effects with the number of managers. As Table F.9 in the online appendix shows, firms with one family manager increase productivity significantly relative to firms with professional managers. What is more is that the effect is estimated to be increasing

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<sup>28</sup>In column (1) of Table F.10 we show that our results also hold when we use one-year lagged labor productivity instead of labor productivity in 1993 as the interaction term. Using lagged productivity instead of productivity in 1993 in principle allows for the inclusion of entering firms later in the sample period. We show that our results are robust to this inclusion in column (2) of Table F.10. However, in our main specifications we prefer to use productivity in the base year, as while we can purge changes in productivity off changes in firm-specific input and output prices, we cannot do this for the levels of productivity in the cross-section, and comparing productivity levels across different years is therefore problematic. We tried to adjust for this by using annual productivity percentiles instead of productivity levels in column (2) of Table F.10, but this is of course imperfect. Using initial productivity has two additional advantages: It holds the sample of firms fixed, so we do not have to worry about endogenous sample composition; and it restricts potential anticipatory productivity adjustments.

in the number of family managers a firm has.

**Alternative productivity measures.** While labor productivity is a transparent measure, it has one disadvantage: Increases may be driven by capital accumulation. In order to investigate whether this is responsible for our main finding, we implement a structural TFP estimation for robustness. We follow the recent literature by combining the Olley and Pakes (1996)-type proxy estimator approach augmented with a De Loecker (2007; 2013)-type correction that allows for family firms to have different technologies from non-family firms; and the management type and import tariffs to directly affect the evolution of TFP. Our results are robust to using this TFP measure (see Table F.11 in the online appendix), suggesting that the estimates are driven by increases in productivity rather than increases in capital stock. In the same table we also show that our results are robust to using alternative normalizations in labor productivity (e.g., value added per number of hours worked, or value added divided by total wage bill). In our main analysis we prefer using the simpler labor productivity measure, as it does not depend on the assumptions required for TFP estimation.

In the following sections we implement robustness checks in order to rule out two types of alternative explanations. First, we check whether family management rather than other characteristics of family-managed firms drive our results. Second, we check whether the productivity response is driven by increased import competition or by other potentially correlated shocks such as improved access to imported inputs or foreign markets.

#### 4.1 Robustness checks: family management

Given that we know family and non-family firms differ across observable and unobservable characteristics, we want to understand whether our estimated effects are driven by family management rather than other, correlated (observed or unobserved) firm characteristics. Since we are not able to use an instrumental variable approach (e.g., as in Bennedsen et al. 2007) that would make it possible for us to compare two identical firms that differ only by management type, we implement several different tests.

**Observable firm characteristics.** In Table 4 we perform a horse race between family management and other observable characteristics such as size, R&D intensity, and capital intensity, allowing for productivity changes to depend on initial productivity just as in our baseline specification.<sup>29</sup> Column (1) repeats our baseline specification and in column (2) we add an interaction term between import competition and the initial sales of the firm. This specification allows the effects to differ across firms with different initial sizes and helps us distinguish between the effects of family firms versus the effects of firm size. Interestingly, the estimates on family firms are not affected by this inclusion and the coefficients on sales are

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<sup>29</sup>Note that we do not need to test against differences in productivity as our baseline estimates already control for initial productivity.



not significant, suggesting that family management rather than size matters. In column (3) we conduct the same exercise using initial employment as an alternative size measure with the same results. In column (4) we perform the same exercise with initial R&D intensity and in column (5) we allow the effect to vary by initial capital intensity. Neither inclusion has an impact on the effects of family management. In fact, the differential marginal effects for family firms at the lowest percentile are remarkably similar in magnitude. This is robust to adding all alternative characteristics together in column (6).

As an alternative method, we use propensity score matching (PSM) techniques (inverse propensity score re-weighting and nearest neighbor matching) using firm's initial TFP, sales, employment, and exporting status in another set of robustness checks. As a result of the matching, family firms and non-family firms are distributed more equally across initial TFP in our regressions. Our empirical results are robust to using either method (see Table F.12 provided in the online appendix).

**Non-managing family members.** Next, we explore more intangible characteristics of family-managed firms. Since we also observe the number of family members in *non*-managing positions, we can check whether those employees affect productivity in a way similar to that of managing family members. If this is the case, we are likely measuring the effects of some other more general characteristics of firms that are associated with families rather than the specific effect of family management. We perform a horse race in column (2) of Table 5 and test whether our effects are driven by family members in managing versus non-managing positions. Specifically, we implement this by adding an interaction term with a dummy variable for whether the firm has family members in non-managing positions.<sup>30</sup> The estimated effects confirm that management is the driving force behind productivity increases as we do not find significant effects for firms with family members in non-managing positions. In columns (3) and (4) we replace the family firm dummy variables with the number of family members in managing and non-managing positions to exploit the full variation that we have in the data.<sup>31</sup> Our findings are unchanged: Again, productivity increases are driven specifically by family management.

**Family ownership.** Family-managed firms are owned by families and family ownership has been shown to affect the governance of firms in various ways (e.g., Suárez and Santana-Martín 2004; Kim and Lu 2011), generating different incentives for undertaking innovation (e.g., differential tax incentives, different types of assets, different political connections, or different time horizon of running the business). In column (1) of Table 6, we test whether family management rather than family ownership is driving our results by restricting the

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<sup>30</sup>Note that, while having family managers in managing and non-managing positions is positively correlated, the correlation between the dummy variables is only 0.37 as we have firms in the sample that have family members in managing but not non-managing positions and vice versa.

<sup>31</sup>The number of family members in non-managing positions ranges between 1 and 6. See the online appendix for a histogram and more details.

sample to family-owned firms. Unfortunately the information on family ownership is only available at the very end of our sample, in 2006. We therefore need to assume that family ownership is unchanged over time and use the value in 2006 to identify family owned firms. When we restrict the sample to family owned firms, the marginal effects compare family owned and family-managed firms to *family owned but professionally managed* firms. The marginal effects in column (2) reveal that import competition increases the productivity of family-managed, family owned firms by more than those of professionally managed, but family owned firms, confirming our hypotheses that family management rather than other aspects of family firms are driving our results. Given that the ownership variable is available only at the end of the period, this is admittedly a rough test. However, it is the best we can do using the data in hand and nevertheless reassuring that our results hold.

**Switch towards professional managers.** As a final step we want to make sure that productivity improvements are not only driven by firms that replace their family managers by professional managers. Column (3) of Table 6 checks whether the observed productivity improvements are driven by firms that replaced their family managers by professional managers. In order to do this, we exclude firms that are initially family-managed but switch to professional management at some point in the sample. It is reassuring to see that the results are not driven by those switchers. If anything, our findings seem to become stronger in magnitude. In a similar spirit, we check directly whether family management changes as a response to import competition in column (4) by using the change in the time-varying family firm dummy variable as a dependent variable. While the marginal differential effects reveal a small positive effect for initially unproductive firms, the effect is insignificantly different from zero.<sup>32</sup> Overall, switches between family and non-family management cannot be used to rationalize our empirical findings.

## 4.2 Robustness check: import competition

While a reduction in tariffs increases import competition, this is not the only trade-related channel through which domestic firms are affected (Shu and Steinwender, 2019). First, reduced tariffs also have positive effects on domestic firms as they can import intermediate inputs more cheaply. Second, trade negotiations are often bilateral, resulting in two economies reducing the tariffs on each other, possibly for the same products. This results in another positive effect on firms as they obtain better access to the foreign market by exporting. In what follows, we test whether our regressions are indeed capturing the effect of increased import competition as opposed to better access to imported inputs or export markets.

**Imported inputs.** Access to inputs has been shown to increase productivity (e.g., Amiti

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<sup>32</sup>The interpretation of the magnitude of the effects is as follows: An increase in import competition triggered by a 1pp tariff reduction leads to an increased likelihood of a firm changing management type by 1.7pp for the initially unproductive firms.

and Konings, 2007; Topalova and Khandelwal, 2011). The productivity increase may be driven by lower prices or higher quality of imported inputs, or different inputs may allow for a more efficient arrangement of the production process. The first channel, increased productivity via lower input prices, is unlikely to show up in our estimates as our productivity changes are already purged of changes in input prices (see discussion in the data section). Furthermore, for these effects to show up in our estimates, they must be larger for initially unproductive firms — the limited empirical evidence on these heterogeneous effects however suggests the opposite (Iacovone, 2012). Nonetheless we can directly control for access to foreign inputs by including the change in input tariffs  $INTAR_{st}$  (and its interaction terms with the initial productivity and initial status of family management) to our regression. Column (2) of Table F.13 in the online appendix conducts this exercise. The coefficients on input tariffs confirm that the effect of better access to intermediate inputs is positive for initially unproductive rather than productive firms but it is not statistically different between family and non-family firms. More importantly, it barely changes the effect of import competition: The effect is still positive for unproductive family relative to non-family firms.<sup>33</sup>

**Export opportunities.** The literature has also shown that better access to export markets leads to productivity increases (e.g., Lileeva and Trefler, 2010; Bustos, 2011; Iacovone, 2012; Mayer et al., 2016; Munch and Schaur, 2018). However, whether more or less productive firms are affected is less clear. Existing papers suggest that the positive effect is the largest at the lower (Lileeva and Trefler, 2010; Munch and Schaur, 2018), the middle (Bustos, 2011) or the upper end of the productivity distribution (Iacovone, 2012). In addition, there is no evidence that this affects family firms differentially from non-family firms. In order to directly test this explanation, we control for the full interactions with “export tariffs,” i.e., tariffs other countries impose on exports originating from the EU,  $EXPTAR_{st}$ . In column (3) of the table titled “Controlling for input and export tariffs” in the online appendix, we see that the effect of better access to export markets is positive for initially productive rather than unproductive firms and larger for family than non-family firms. But this effect is not statistically different between family and non-family firms. Importantly, this exercise does not eliminate the differential effect of import competition on family relative to non-family firms.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>33</sup>In Table F.14 in the online appendix we show additional evidence that better access to imported inputs does confound our estimates: We check whether import competition leads unproductive family firms to start importing, increase their imports, start importing technology, or increase their imports of technology. We do not find significant effects of any.

<sup>34</sup>In Table F.14 in the online appendix we show additional evidence that better access to export markets does not confound our estimates: We check whether import competition leads unproductive family firms to start exporting or increase their exports but we do not find significant effects of either.

## 5 Model

In this section we present a model that rationalizes our main empirical findings: After a reduction in import tariffs, family-managed firms at the lower end of the productivity distribution respond by increasing productivity. In our model we suggest that this is due to the specific preferences of family managers. Specifically, they care about the survival of the family firm by itself and do not want to let the firm go bankrupt. We model this by giving family managers additional utility when the family firm exists, which they lose when the family firm goes bankrupt.<sup>35</sup>

There is ample evidence in favor of this type of preferences in the literature on family firms. Family managers have been shown to obtain a wide range of personal benefits from running the firm (e.g., Hurst and Pugsley, 2011; Bandiera et al., 2014a; Belenzon et al., 2014; Gomez-Mejia et al., 2007; Besley and Ghatak, 2005; Prendergast, 2008; Bertrand et al., 2008; Mullins and Schoar, 2016; Bertrand and Mullainathan, 2003). For example, there is emotional attachment to the firm; the family firm also might allow for an increased social status or even allow for personal identification. People have been shown to have a preference for eponymy and empire building. Family managers may like to pass the firm on to the next generation. But they may also just enjoy being their own boss, having flexible work hours, using the firm resources for private purposes, or having the opportunity to use the firm to address family issues (e.g., finding a prestigious job for a low-ability offspring).

We start with a static partial equilibrium model with heterogeneous firms and endogenous productivity, i.e., the firm's managers have the possibility to exert effort and increase the productivity of the firm. The key novel element of the model in this paper is that we allow managers to have heterogeneous preferences with respect to non-monetary private benefits of running the firm. This generates differential productivity responses to a change in the competitiveness of the market. Our model is general and just distinguishes between two types of managers: We assume that compared to *P*-type (i.e., professional) managers, *F*-type (i.e., family) managers derive (more) non-monetary private benefits from running the firm which they only receive when the firm exists.

### 5.1 Setup

**Firm profits.** We assume that each firm draws a random initial productivity  $\phi$  upon entry. The initial productivity draw is fixed throughout the model and its cumulative density function (CDF) is assumed to be  $G(\phi)$ . Firm profits are positively related to the exogenous productivity

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<sup>35</sup>Note that the driving feature of our model revolves around the characteristics of the manager of the firm rather than the owner or a non-managing employee of the firm. Therefore, we abstract from theoretical explanations that are based on the latter (e.g. tax incentives, political connections, asset mixes, or investment horizons that differ for family owned vs non family owned firms).

draw. Managers can exert effort  $\beta$  which increases ex post firm productivity endogenously.

We model the firm's profits  $\pi$  in the following stylized way:

$$\pi = (\eta + \phi\beta) - f.$$

The first term,  $\eta$ , is an exogenous market environment parameter that leads to decreased profits when import competition increases. We label the second term *realized productivity*,  $\phi\beta$ , of the firm which is a positive function of the initial productivity draw and managerial effort. We assume that there is a complementarity between exerting effort and the initial productivity draw, meaning that the marginal return to exerting effort increases with the initial draw. We label these two terms together variable or operating profits,  $\eta + \phi\beta$ .

Finally, the third term in the profit function is a fixed cost of production  $f$  which the firm incurs in order to produce. If the variable profits are not enough to cover the fixed cost, the firm exits — the model therefore allows for endogenous exits. Furthermore, the manager can also let the firm exit and obtain zero utility without exerting any effort (i.e., the manager's outside option yields zero utility). However, if total profits (i.e., variable profits minus the fixed cost) are negative *after* the effort is exerted, the firm is forced to exit even if the manager would like to continue operating the firm, as our model is a static model. In this case, the manager obtains zero monetary income but still has to bear the disutility of exerting effort. In short, exit is not chosen by the owner or the manager once the manager has exerted effort.<sup>36</sup>

**Utility functions.** The manager derives utility from both firm profits and non-monetary private benefits, which exist only when the firm exists. As we have argued above, we assume that  $F$ -type managers derive more of these private benefits than  $P$ -type managers. For simplicity, in what follows we assume that only  $F$ -type managers derive the non-monetary private benefits. However, the empirical predictions of the model are unchanged even if we allow for a private benefit of  $P$ -type managers, as long as it is small enough (and smaller than that of  $F$ -type managers).<sup>37</sup> The utility of the manager also includes a private, convex cost of exerting effort, which is assumed to be the same for both type of managers.

Overall, the utility of  $F$ -type managers is given by:

$$U_F = \begin{cases} (\eta + \phi\beta) - f - \frac{1}{2}\beta^2 + \bar{U} & \text{if firm exists;} \\ 0 & \text{if firm exits,} \end{cases} \quad (5.1)$$

where  $\frac{1}{2}\beta^2$  is the effort cost and  $\bar{U}$  represents the non-monetary private benefits.

The utility function of  $P$ -type managers differs from that of  $F$ -type managers only by the

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<sup>36</sup>We implicitly assume that the firm cannot borrow and the manager cannot use his or her own wealth to cover the firm's losses in order to prevent the firm from exiting. This is true in our model, as the model is static. In addition, this seems to be a reasonable assumption as firms that go bankrupt probably face severe financial constraints and managers of those firms are likely also facing personal financial constraints.

<sup>37</sup>For a more details on this, see our discussion after Proposition 3.

lack of the non-monetary private benefits:

$$U_P = \begin{cases} (\eta + \phi\beta) - f - \frac{1}{2}\beta^2 & \text{if firm exists;} \\ 0 & \text{if firm exits.} \end{cases} \quad (5.2)$$

## 5.2 Effort choice and realized productivity

In this subsection we derive the optimal effort choice of both managers. The following proposition summarizes our result.

**Proposition 1** (Optimal effort choice). *Assume  $f \geq \eta$  and  $\bar{U} > \frac{f-\eta}{2}$ ,<sup>38</sup> then:*

1. *The optimal effort choice for a P-type manager is given by:*

$$\beta_P(\phi) = \phi \quad \text{if } \phi \geq \sqrt{2(f-\eta)} \equiv \bar{\phi}_P$$

*P-type managers with productivity draws below  $\bar{\phi}_P$  exit the market.*

2. *The effort function of the P-type manager is increasing in  $\phi$ .*
3. *The optimal effort choice for a F-type manager is given by:*

$$\beta_F(\phi) = \begin{cases} \phi & \text{if } \phi \geq \sqrt{f-\eta} \\ \frac{f-\eta}{\phi} & \text{if } \phi \in \left[ \frac{f-\eta}{\sqrt{2\bar{U}}} \equiv \bar{\phi}_F, \sqrt{f-\eta} \right) \end{cases}$$

*F-type managers with productivity draws below  $\bar{\phi}_F$  exit the market.*

4. *The effort function of the F-type manager is initially decreasing in  $\phi$  and later increasing in  $\phi$  (i.e., the relationship is “U-shaped”).*

*Proof.* In appendix. □

Figure 4 illustrates the optimal effort as a function of initial productivity draw for P-type managers and for F-type managers. If productivity is high, i.e., above  $\bar{\phi}_P$ , both F-type and P-type managers behave in the same way. For both type of managers, effort increasing in the initial productivity draw, because the two are complements. However, when initial productivity is below  $\bar{\phi}_P$ , P-type managers let the firm exit, while F-type managers prefer to

<sup>38</sup>The first assumption is a technical assumption, which is needed to generate endogenous exits. Otherwise, managers with any productivity draw can make their firms survive and obtain positive payoffs by choosing zero effort. The second assumption states that the private benefits are big enough such that even when the firm’s final profits are zero (under the effort level that ignores the private benefits), F-type managers still have incentives to keep their firms alive by exerting more effort. Without the second assumption, the model would not generate a positive productivity response from initially unproductive family firms under tougher import competition, which is the purpose of the model.

keep the firm alive in order to reap the private benefits. This creates an incentive for  $F$ -type manager to work harder and this incentive is larger the lower the initial productivity. If the initial productivity is too low, i.e., below even  $\bar{\phi}_F$ , ensuring firm survival requires too much effort and the  $F$ -type manager prefers to exit. Overall, the exit cutoff is lower for  $F$ -type managers than for  $P$ -type managers.

The kink in the effort function of  $F$ -type managers in Figure 4 also illustrates that there are two different ways in which the  $F$ -type manager is incentivized to exert effort. Below the kink, when the effort function is decreasing, the  $F$ -type manager exerts effort in order to make their firms break even and stay in the market. For further exposition, we label managers with initial productivity in this region the *constrained managers*. Above the kink, when the effort function is increasing, she exerts effort in order to increase the marginal profitability of the firm. We label these managers the *unconstrained managers*.

In addition to the predictions for effort choices, the model also has the following implications for productivity:

**Proposition 2** (Realized productivity). *Assume  $f \geq \eta$  and  $\bar{U} > \frac{f-\eta}{2}$ , then:*

1. *Realized productivity of firms with  $P$ -type managers,  $\beta_P(\phi)\phi$ , increases in  $\phi$  when  $\phi \geq \bar{\phi}_P$ .*
2. *Realized productivity of firms with  $F$ -type managers,  $\beta_F(\phi)\phi$ , is constant for  $\phi \in [\bar{\phi}_F, \sqrt{f-\eta})$  and increasing in  $\phi$  for  $\phi \geq \sqrt{f-\eta}$ .*
3. *Average realized productivity of firms with  $P$ -type managers is higher than that of firms with  $F$ -type managers.*
4. *Assume that the initial productivity draw follows the same Pareto distribution for both  $F$ -type firms and  $P$ -type firms. Then, the distribution of realized productivity of  $P$ -type firms first order stochastically dominates that of  $F$ -type firms.*

*Proof.* See appendix. □

Figure 5 illustrates how realized log productivity, which is a combination of the initial productivity draw and the optimally chosen effort, varies with the initial productivity draw for  $P$ -type managers and for  $F$ -type managers. Realized productivity weakly increases in the initial productivity for both type of managers but more importantly, as the exit cutoff for professional firms is larger, average observed productivity for  $P$ -type firms is higher than that of  $F$ -type firms.

### 5.3 Impact of import competition on productivity

In this subsection we analyze how stiffer import competition affects the realized productivity of  $F$ -type firms and  $P$ -type firms differentially. Specifically, we conduct a comparative statics

exercise of a decrease in  $\eta$  (i.e., an increase in import competition) on managerial effort and firm productivity. We use subscripts “before” and “after” to denote variables before and after a reduction in import tariffs. The following propositions state formally how tougher import competition affects  $F$ -type firms and  $P$ -type firms differently:

**Proposition 3** (Productivity change for  $F$ -type firms and  $P$ -type firms). *Assume  $f \geq \eta$  and  $\bar{U} > \frac{f-\eta}{2}$ . Suppose the market environment parameter decreases from  $\eta_1$  to  $\eta_2$ , i.e., import competition increases. Then:*

1. *The realized productivity of each surviving  $P$ -type firm is not affected.*
2. *For surviving  $F$ -type firms, the initially least productive surviving firms increase their realized productivity, whereas the initially most productive surviving firms do not change their realized productivity.*
3. *For the initially most productive surviving firms, the induced productivity change of  $F$ -type and  $P$ -type firms is the same. For the initially least productive surviving firms, the productivity change for  $F$ -type firms is larger than that of  $P$ -type firms.*

*Proof.* See appendix. □

Figure 6 illustrates the change in the managerial effort and firm productivity graphically in response to an increase in import competition. The least productive surviving  $F$ -type firms increase productivity as stiffer import competition incentivizes their managers to exert more effort to ensure the survival of their firms (i.e., by just earning non-negative profits). On the contrary, the most productive surviving  $F$ -type firms and all  $P$ -type firms do not change their productivity, as their managers’ effort does not depend on the market environment parameter. This is the main proposition of our simple, stylized model that can rationalize our empirical findings.

It is worth noting that the empirical predictions of the above proposition do not depend on the assumption that  $P$ -type managers receive no private benefits by running the firms. In fact, as long as the private benefits  $P$ -type managers receive are smaller than  $\frac{f-\eta}{2}$  (i.e.,  $\bar{U} \leq \frac{f-\eta}{2}$ , which is opposite the assumption made for the private benefits of  $F$ -type managers), the effort choice is still  $\phi$  for all  $P$ -type managers, which does not respond to a change in the market environment parameter  $\eta$ . As a result, their effort and their firms’ productivity do not change after import competition increases. In short, our results hold as long as the private benefits of  $F$ -type managers are above — and the benefits of  $P$ -type managers are below — a certain threshold.

**Proposition 4** (Exits). *Assume  $f \geq \eta$  and  $\bar{U} > \frac{f-\eta}{2}$ . Suppose the market environment parameter decreases from  $\eta_1$  to  $\eta_2$ , i.e., import competition increases. Then:*



1. *The exit cutoff on realized log productivity increases for both F-type firms and P-type firms. As a result, the least productive firms of either type exit.*
2. *For firms with the same realized initial productivity, P-type firms are more likely to exit than F-type firms.*

*Proof.* See appendix. □

## 6 Additional empirical evidence

The objective of the model was to provide a rationale for explaining our main results in the data: Initially unproductive family firms increase their productivity in response to an import competition shock, while we see no significant changes for initially productive family firms or non-family firms (Table 3). Proposition 3 qualitatively predicts this pattern.<sup>39</sup> However, ours may not be the only model that can rationalize the empirical findings. We therefore explore in this section how likely it is that the mechanism proposed in the model is the correct one, and whether additional predictions of the model are consistent with the data.

**Innovation.** We start by investigating what kind of activities managers undertake in response to import competition. In column (2) of Table 7 we check whether firms that respond to import competition also start to perform R&D activities, using the change in the R&D dummy variable as a dependent variable. However, we cannot find significant marginal effects. In column (3) we use the change in the R&D expenses that a firm reports as a dependent variable.<sup>40</sup> Family firms at both ends of the productivity distribution report increased spending relative to non-family firms, but the estimated effects are not significant. In column (4) we check whether the firm reports a change in the number of patents. We estimate positive effects for initially unproductive family firms relative to non-family firms, but the effects are again insignificant.<sup>41</sup>

Overall, we do not see a differential increase in innovation related activities in response to import competition. This is consistent with the mechanism in the model. R&D and patenting are innovation activities that span a longer time horizon, and are therefore not suitable to increase cash flow to ensure survival. Furthermore, firms that are faced with increased bankruptcy risk due to tougher import competition probably do not have the resources in order to invest into R&D.

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<sup>39</sup>Note that strictly speaking, the model predicts a sharp non-linear effect of import competition on the productivity of family firms, whereas our data suggests a more linear effect. Measurement error in productivity or uncertainty with respect to how effort translates into productivity could smooth the strict prediction of the model.

<sup>40</sup>Note that we can only do this for firms that report positive R&D expenses, which explains why the sample size drops significantly.

<sup>41</sup>We also checked whether product or process innovation changed, but did not find significant effects. Notice that the effects on productivity in column (1) are robust to restricting the sample to the ones used in columns (2) to (4).

**Efficiency.** In Table 8 we conduct another exercise to shed light on what is going on inside the firm by regressing the different components of labor productivity separately on import competition and the respective interaction terms. Comparing columns (2), deflated value added, with column (5), employment, we see that increases in value added rather than reductions in employment drive the productivity increase.<sup>42</sup> Decomposing value added into sales in column (3) and material in column (4) makes clear that initially unproductive family firms increase their labor productivity by reducing their material inputs (rather than increasing their sales). We also show in column (6) that productivity improvements are not driven by increases in the capital stock.<sup>43</sup>

This is again evidence in support of the mechanism in the model, as it suggests that firms are trying to use their materials more efficiently in order to increase their short-term cash flow and their survival probability. Managers may be able to improve material efficiency in a variety of ways: They may source the buying inputs at lower prices, they may run down the material inventories, or they may use the same material inputs more efficiently in production. Either interpretation is consistent with the mechanism in the model, in which managers are trying to ensure survival into the next period. But we can dig a little bit deeper.

First, we know that the decrease in material usage is not driven by using cheaper materials, as we already deflated material expenditure by change in material prices.<sup>44</sup> This also implies that we do not purely see reduced tunneling of profits to suppliers when import competition increases (Bertrand et al., 2002).

Second, if the effects were driven by a run-down in inventory, they would have to be restocked in the next period. As a result, we would see an equivalent productivity decrease in the following period. However, when we run our regressions on changes over two years, we still find significant positive effects of import competition on the productivity of initially unproductive family firms (results in Table F.16 of the online appendix). The most likely explanation for our findings is therefore that managers are using the same material inputs more efficiently in the production process to generate more output.

Reducing waste in material usage and inventory is an integral part of *lean manufacturing* (e.g., a part of the so called “5 S” workplace organization method), a method often used by companies trying to increase profitability in the face of increased competition. While lean approaches require effort on the part of managers and employees to identify waste, the changes can be implemented relatively quickly and improve the cash flow position of a company (Liker and Meier, 2005).

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<sup>42</sup>This is maybe not surprising as the Spanish labor market has been characterized as very rigid. In Table F.15 in the online appendix we also check whether the workers supplied by a temporary agency or total employment of family members changed, but we did not find significant effects.

<sup>43</sup>This is consistent with our results in Table F.11 of the online appendix, in which we show that the productivity increases are also reflected in TFP increases.

<sup>44</sup>We also checked whether import competition affected input prices, but there are no significant effects.

Since our Spanish data is confidential, we cannot investigate what has happened to individual businesses in order to provide anecdotal evidence of the mechanism we find. However, a case study from an American family business may be illustrative: Watlow is a family-owned manufacturer in St. Louis, MO, US, which was founded in 1922. The current CEO Peter Desloge is a third generation member of the founding family. He adopted lean production principles at Watlow in 2006, explaining: “A competitive environment forced us to figure out how to lower our costs while also better engaging our people.” The lean approach led Watlow to identify and eliminate waste in all production steps. As an example, the company discovered that it could eliminate an unnecessary part in a temperature controller. Mr. Desloge explains: “When it got to their facility, the customer was taking the cover off because they had to install it in their machine. We realized we could ship without it and eliminate both the effort on our end as well as for the customer.” While competition was the initial force to adopt lean, the company states that it has since then used *lean* not only to reduce cost, but as a growth strategy.<sup>45</sup>

Overall, these results are consistent with managers putting more effort towards increasing efficiency (by reducing material usage and eliminating waste) rather than innovation (by increasing R&D or patenting). The former can help to increase efficiency, improve cash flows and therefore avoid immediate bankruptcy, whereas the latter improves long-run success, but is more risky if the firm does not survive. This is consistent with the mechanism in the model, which is triggered by the motive to keep the firm alive another day.

**Multi-generational family firms.** The model assumes that family managers care more about the survival of the firm than professional managers, in line with the findings in the literature on family firms. In Table 9 we test this assumption directly by checking whether our results are stronger for those family managers whom we suspect to be especially motivated to keep the family firm alive in the long run: multi-generational firms, which we measure by the number of family managers present. While we do not have an exact measure of the number of generations, we think that these firms correspond closest to a multi-generational family firm. Column (1) repeats the result for non-family firms, and in columns (2) and (3) we split the sample of family firms into those that have one family manager versus those that have more than one family manager. The effect for initially unproductive firms is larger for the latter. Columns (4) to (6) repeat the same regressions with firm fixed effects, we see a very similar pattern.

The firms in our data set also report whether they have introduced new organizational methods in process innovation. These new methods would be consistent with changes in the organization of the workplace mentioned above that can improve efficiency. When we use the dummy variable of organizational changes in Panel B of Table 9, we find again that the effect

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<sup>45</sup><https://www.watlow.com/about-watlow/working-at-watlow> (accessed Dec 20, 2019).

is positive for initially unproductive family firm, and the effect is stronger for family firm with more than one family manager. The effects are imprecisely estimated, but when we also control for firm fixed effects in columns (4) to (6), they become stronger and more significant. As a placebo test we also use the alternative way to implement process organization, i.e., by introducing new machinery, as dependent variable in panel C. Using this variable, we do not see a pattern across firms with a different number of family managers, and the results vary in sign and are insignificant.

While these results are not all very precisely estimated and therefore not strong enough to be a strict test of the model, we interpret them as suggestive of our proposed mechanism: A re-organization of the workplace costs managerial effort, and family managers are especially willing to undertake this effort when survival is threatened. The changes in organizational methods do not require additional investment in contrast to the introduction of new machinery, they may be quick to implement, and are likely to result in efficiency gains.

**Cross-sectional productivity differences.** The model has additional predictions that we can check in the data. First, while we are interested in explaining productivity changes, the model yields predictions concerning differences in the productivity distribution of family versus non-family firms in the cross section. Most noticeable, Proposition 2 explains that family firms are, on average, less productive than non-family firms. This is a frequent finding of the literature and also supported in our data, as Table 1 shows. The literature usually rationalizes this finding using assumptions of worse abilities or lower willingness to work of family managers (e.g., Bertrand and Schoar, 2006; Bandiera et al., 2014a; Bloom et al., 2012). In our model, however, family managers have the same initial abilities as non-family managers on average, since the distribution of the productivity draws is the same for both types of firms. Also, they exert either the same level of effort or even more: They keep putting in effort for initially unproductive firms that professional managers would have let go bankrupt. Yet, precisely because of the desire to keep unproductive family firms alive, the model results in lower (average) realized productivity for family firms.

Proposition 2 also predicts that the distribution of realized productivities of non-family firms first-order stochastically dominates that of family firms. Figure 7 plots the empirical CDF of the log labor productivity for both types of firms. The figure shows that this prediction indeed holds in the data.

**Exits.** Another prediction from the model is Proposition 4, which states that import competition leads to exits of non-productive firms of either type. In Table F.17 in the online appendix we see that import competition indeed leads to exits.<sup>46</sup> Overall, a fall in import tariffs by 1pp increases the average probability of exit by 0.2pp. In Figure 8 we run non-parametric regressions of import competition on exits by tercile in the initial productivity

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<sup>46</sup>Exiting firms include closed firms, firms in liquidation, and firms that are taken over by other firms.

distribution, separately for family and non-family firms.<sup>47</sup> The exit probability is indeed largest for unproductive non-family firms, as our proposition suggests, and statistically different from zero. The magnitude implies that for these firms, an increase in import tariffs by 1 percentage point implies an increase in the exit probability by 0.6 percentage points. One note of caution: While this is supportive evidence of the mechanism described in the model, the standard errors are too large to conclude that the exit probabilities are statistically different from the exit probabilities of family-firms for the lowest tercile.<sup>48</sup>

## 7 Conclusion

In this paper, we use rich, firm-level data from Spain and changes in EU-imposed import tariffs between 1993 and 2007 to study how stiffer import competition affects productivity of firms depending on their manager type. We find that family-managed firms with initially low productivity show significant productivity increases after a reduction of import tariffs. This is in contrast to initially very productive family firms as well as non-family firms, whose productivity is not affected by import competition. This finding is driven by family management rather than family ownership or other characteristics of family firms. In addition, these productivity increases seem to be driven by a more efficient use of input materials rather than innovation activities like R&D or patenting. This shows that family managers that face increased bankruptcy risk try to improve their cash flow position in order to ensure survival into the next period.

We propose a model featuring heterogeneity in managers' preferences in order to rationalize the empirical findings. Motivated by the literature, we assume that family managers receive additional private benefits when their firm exists. When import competition increases, the bankruptcy risk of the initially unproductive firms increases. Family managers increase effort which makes the firm more productive and ensures survival, while professional managers let the firm exit. Consistent with this notion of the preferences of family managers, our findings are empirically stronger for multi-generational family firms.

Our findings give us the following picture of family firms. Family firms have a long term view and their most important goal is survival for future generations. However, in the short run, they are not necessarily maximizing monetary profits. Family firms have been reported to be averse to change (unless strictly necessary to ensure survival), and are more likely to be busy dealing with family related issues. These firms may also be less willing to cause disruption among employees who they often view as part of their family / responsibility, or the

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<sup>47</sup>Given that the effect of import competition is predicted to be non-linear in initial productivity, i.e., much more pronounced for initially unproductive firms, this specification is more consistent with the data and model than the linear interaction terms that we use for other outcomes.

<sup>48</sup>The difference between family and non-family firms in the lowest tercile is -0.50 (0.49), with a p-value of 0.305.

family managers may prefer non-monetary benefits such as leisure. However, once survival is threatened, they have been reported to be more agile to react as there is less bureaucracy and the family-like culture can be an asset that unifies employees and owners during these times (Deloitte University EMEA CVBA, 2017).

One of the authors of this paper had an encounter with a European family firm that supports this interpretation. The family business was doing well economically, but during a company visit we noticed that the shop floor looked anything but a textbook example of modern workplace organization: waste and scrap in random places; old, not always functioning machinery; hard to read or misplaced signs of the production processes. When we asked the family manager why they had not considered more modern workplace organization such as lean management, they answered that while they were aware of potential efficiency gains (the manager had an MBA), they had little motivation to change operations: “Why should we do this? We are doing well economically, and a re-organization, especially if we brought in external consultants, would cause a disturbance to our workers, who have been with us for generations”. When asked whether their view would change if competition threatened the survival of the firm, the manager immediately replied that long-term survival was the most important goal of the company, and everything necessary to ensure survival would be implemented.

Our results shed light on the behavior of family firms, which contribute to a large share of economic activities in many countries throughout the world. Economists have long been worried about the implications of unsatisfactory performance of family firms on welfare and aggregate productivity. At the same time, the surge of China’s exports in recent decades has increased the bankruptcy risk of these vulnerable firms. Our findings suggest that the attachment of family managers to their firms creates a stronger motive to “fight” against bankruptcy when the import shock hits. This mechanism may help to reconcile the mixed evidence in existing empirical studies, which have found positive effects for emerging economies that typically host a large number of family managers.

Also, this positive effect of import competition is in contrast to the literature that has pictured family managers as less able or less productive. However, all is not well: The increased effort is targeted towards improving short-term efficiency (to ensure survival) rather than long-term productivity based on innovation or research and development. Future research should focus on embedding these findings into a general equilibrium trade model that can help us understand how the difference in managers’ preferences affects gains in aggregate productivity and welfare after trade liberalization.

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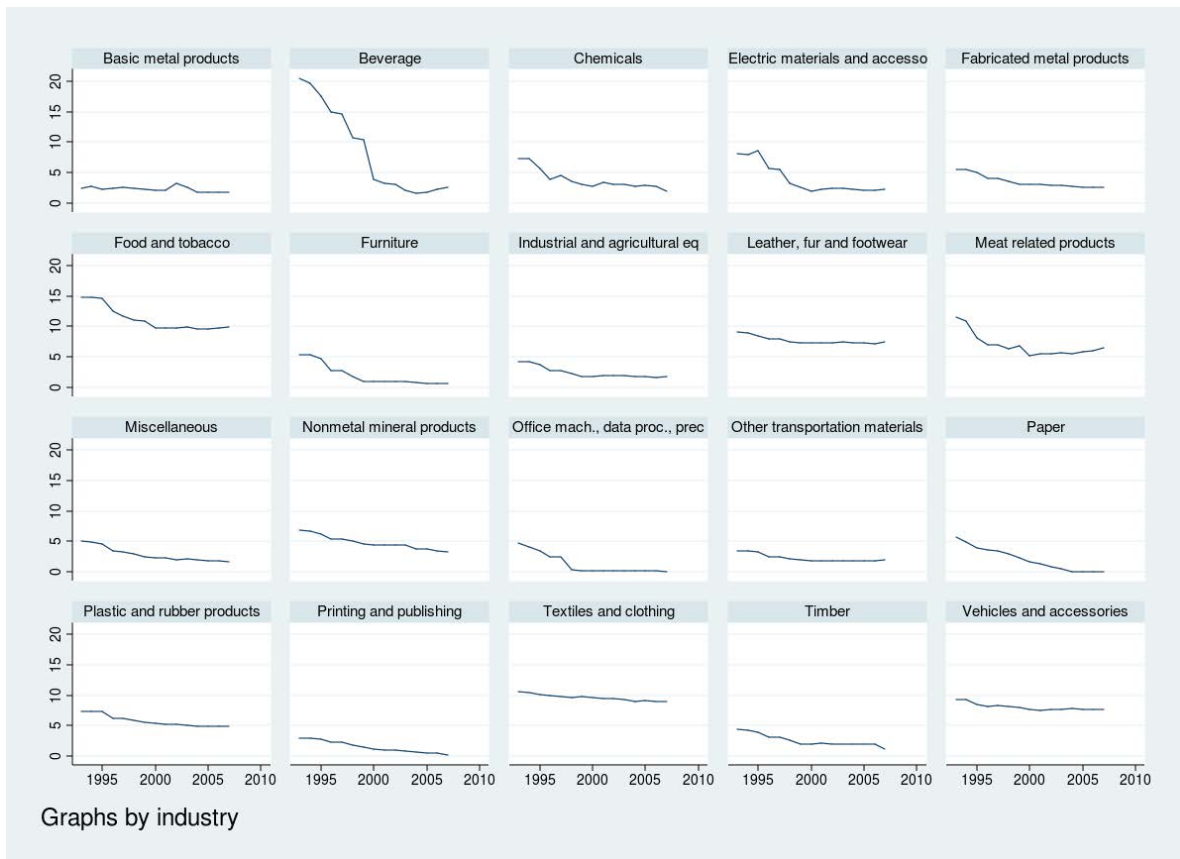
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# Appendix

## A Figures

Figure 1: EU import tariffs over time



Source: TRAINS database (provided by UNCTAD), accessed by World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), [wits.worldbank.org](http://wits.worldbank.org)

Figure 2: Effect of import competition on labor productivity: Non-parametric estimation

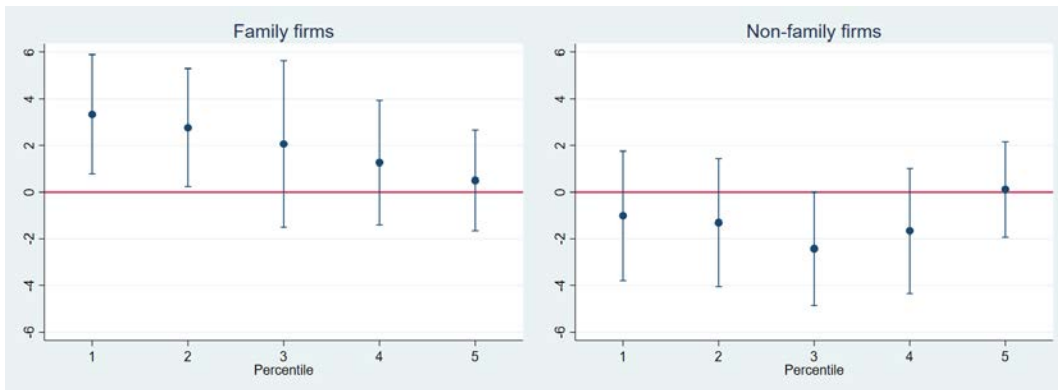


Figure 3: Effect of import competition

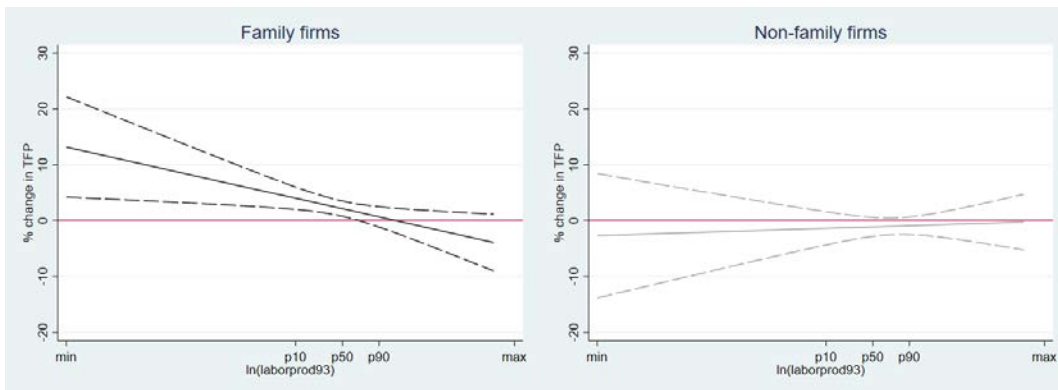


Figure 4: Effort choices of F-type and P-type firms

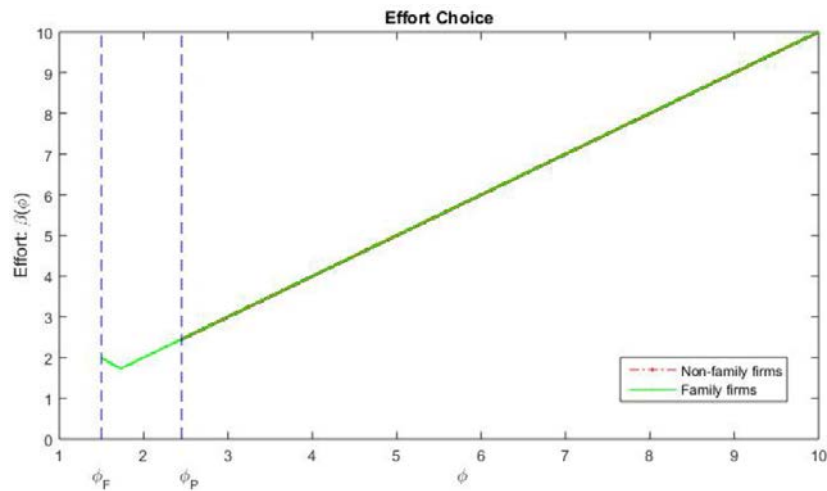


Figure 5: Realized log productivity across firms

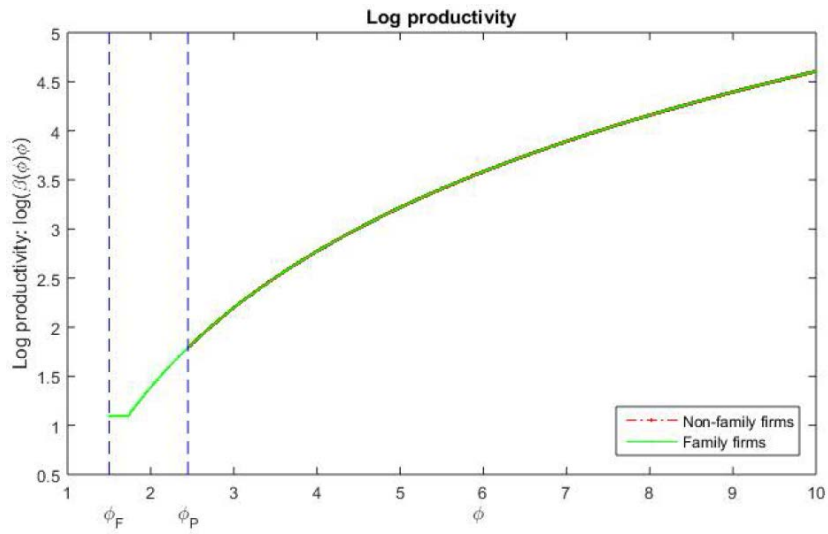


Figure 6: Effect of increased import competition on managerial effort and realized productivity

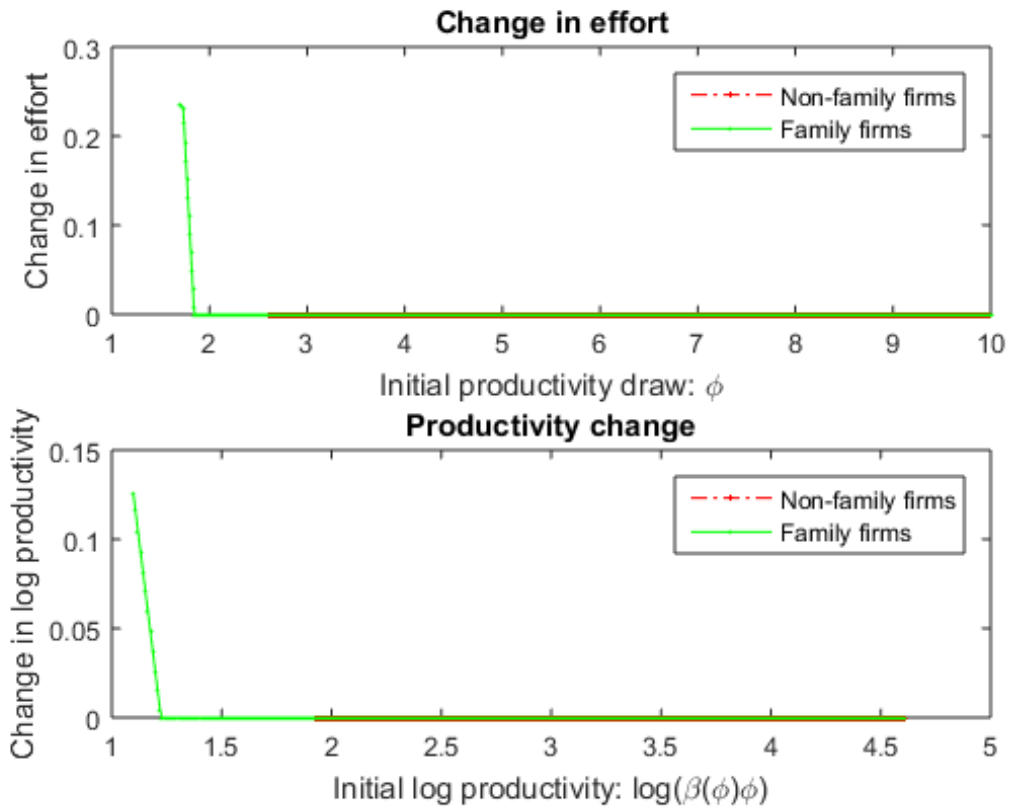


Figure 7: Empirical CDF of log labor productivity

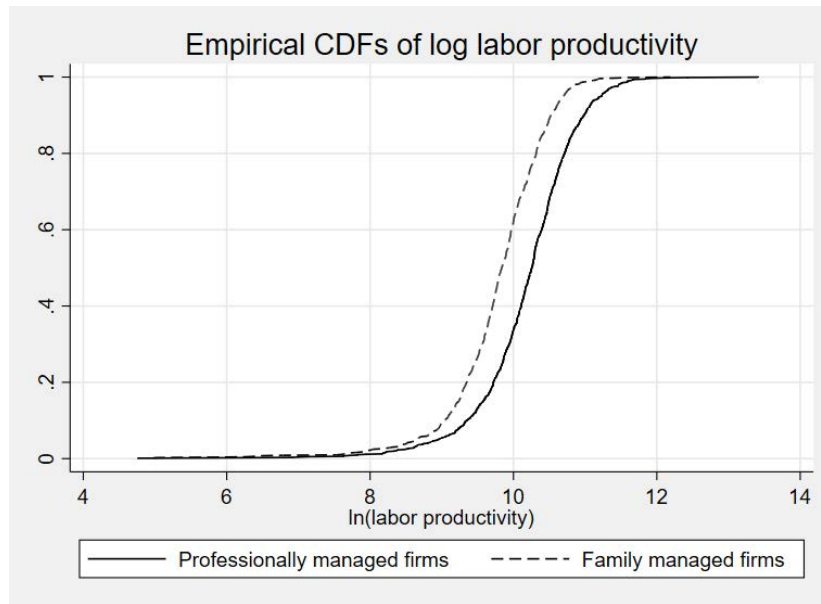
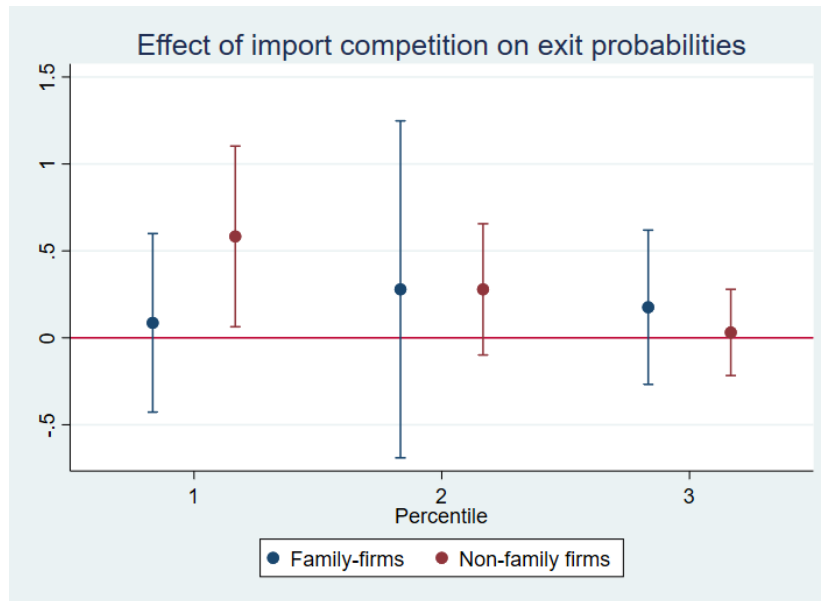


Figure 8: Effect of import competition on exit probabilities, by initial productivity





## B Tables

Table 1: Descriptive statistics of Spanish manufacturing firms, family versus non-family firms

	Family firms	Non-family firms	Difference	Difference excl. industry FEs
N (firm-year observations)	6,894 (41%)	9,812 (59%)		
Sales, million EUR	9.50 (0.36)	84.14 (2.83)	74.64***	56.616***
Employment	71.94 (1.95)	399.18 (9.32)	327.24***	260.48***
ln(labor productivity)	11.19 (0.01)	11.65 (0.01)	0.46***	0.374***
R&D intensity	0.51 (0.02)	0.89 (0.03)	0.38***	0.14***
Capital intensity	26.45 (0.56)	64.13 (1.78)	37.68***	29.71***

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . R&D intensity is equal to R&D expenditure (in EUR)/sales (in EUR)\*100. Capital intensity is capital (in thousand EUR)/employment. "Difference excluding industry fixed effects" denotes the coefficient of a regression of the variable on a family firm dummy, controlling for industry fixed effects.

Table 2: Effect of import competition on labor productivity — separate regressions

Dep var: $\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
		Family firms				Non-family firms		
$\Delta IMP_{st}$	2.078** (0.838)	23.201** (10.341)	23.347** (10.593)	29.540** (13.181)	-1.062 (0.912)	-4.137 (12.376)	-4.199 (12.500)	-3.341 (13.540)
$\Delta IMP_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$		-2.088** (1.022)	-2.102** (1.022)	-2.668** (1.285)		0.296 (1.172)	0.301 (1.183)	0.239 (1.278)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	-0.063*** (0.023)	-0.057** (0.024)	-0.058** (0.026)		-0.065*** (0.011)	-0.066*** (0.013)	-0.068*** (0.014)	
<b>Effects evaluated at:</b>								
10th prod percentile	n/a	4.013*** (1.239)	4.033*** (1.262)	5.024*** (1.615)	n/a	-1.413 (1.815)	-1.429 (1.832)	-1.144 (2.015)
90th prod percentile	n/a	0.651 (1.104)	0.649 (1.108)	0.729 (1.145)	n/a	-0.936 (0.949)	-0.944 (0.945)	-0.760 (1.025)
Observations	6,507	6,507	6,507	6,434	7,834	7,834	7,834	7,759
Year FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Industry FE	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes	
Region FE			yes				yes	
Firm FE				yes				yes
Number of firmid				662				822

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). Marginal effects are calculated as  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta IMP_{st}} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$  as specified in regression equation (3.1) and evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (across all firms; i.e., including both family and non-family firms).

Table 3: Effect of import competition — pooled regression

Dependent variable:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st}$	-4.137 (12.376)	-4.199 (12.500)		-3.693 (13.779)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	0.296 (1.172)	0.301 (1.183)	-0.102 (0.120)	0.260 (1.300)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \text{FAM93}_i$	27.338* (15.920)	27.546* (16.095)	23.453** (11.736)	31.302* (18.834)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \text{FAM93}_i$	-2.385 (1.551)	-2.404 (1.567)	-2.032* (1.197)	-2.735 (1.821)
$\text{FAM93}_i$	-0.121 (0.234)	-0.088 (0.248)	-0.253 (0.229)	
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \text{FAM93}_i$	0.009 (0.023)	0.010 (0.024)	0.009 (0.023)	
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	-0.066*** (0.013)	-0.068*** (0.014)	-0.065*** (0.011)	
<b>Marginal effects:</b>				
Non-family firms, p10	-1.413 (1.815)	-1.429 (1.832)		-1.307 (2.058)
Non-family firms, p90	-0.936 (0.949)	-0.944 (0.945)		-0.890 (1.037)
Family firms, p10	4.013*** (1.239)	4.033*** (1.262)		4.866*** (1.728)
Family firms, p90	0.651 (1.104)	0.649 (1.108)		0.881 (1.236)
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	5.426*** (2.089)	5.462*** (2.110)	4.785*** (1.350)	6.173** (2.532)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	1.587 (1.593)	1.593 (1.590)	1.515 (1.704)	1.771 (1.739)
Observations	14,341	14,341	14,341	14,195
Family firm	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy
Industry * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Region * famfirm FE		yes		
Industry * year FE			yes	
Firm FE				yes

Notes: \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001. Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). There are 17 regions in our data (corresponding to autonomous regions in Spain). We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal effects for non-family firms as  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$  and the ones for family-firms as  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} = \beta_1 + \beta_3 + (\beta_2 + \beta_4) \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , while the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms are given by  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ . We evaluate all marginal effects at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms).

Table 4: Horse race between family management and other observable firm characteristics

Dependent variable:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st}$	-4.137 (12.376)	56.867 (60.819)	4.264 (28.345)	-5.124 (12.390)	-8.686 (11.269)	174.169 (123.188)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	0.296 (1.172)	-6.735 (5.897)	-0.842 (2.804)	0.362 (1.172)	0.728 (1.070)	-18.877 (11.663)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \text{FAM93}_i$	27.338* (15.920)	26.841* (14.673)	28.084** (13.835)	28.894* (15.980)	32.846** (15.866)	40.192*** (14.768)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \text{FAM93}_i$	-2.385 (1.551)	-2.275 (1.421)	-2.399* (1.360)	-2.533 (1.555)	-2.922* (1.553)	-3.595** (1.458)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{sales93}_i)$		-3.203 (3.651)				-15.789 (12.514)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \ln(\text{sales93}_i)$		0.377 (0.346)				1.668 (1.183)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{empl93}_i)$			-0.666 (6.194)			15.534 (16.214)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \ln(\text{empl93}_i)$			0.129 (0.600)			-1.591 (1.566)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{R\&Dint93}_i)$				0.474 (1.977)		1.225 (1.718)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \ln(\text{R\&Dint93}_i)$				-0.020 (0.194)		-0.098 (0.169)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{capint93}_i)$					0.000 (0.000)	0.000 (0.000)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \ln(\text{capint93}_i)$					-0.000 (0.000)	-0.000 (0.000)
$\text{FAM93}_i$	-0.121 (0.234)	-0.138 (0.230)	-0.129 (0.234)	-0.132 (0.233)	-0.119 (0.238)	-0.151 (0.234)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \text{FAM93}_i$	0.009 (0.023)	0.011 (0.023)	0.010 (0.023)	0.010 (0.023)	0.009 (0.024)	0.013 (0.024)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	-0.066*** (0.013)	-0.066*** (0.013)	-0.066*** (0.013)	-0.067*** (0.013)	-0.067*** (0.013)	-0.066*** (0.013)
<b>Marginal effects:</b>						
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	5.426*** (2.089)	5.940*** (1.993)	6.046*** (1.749)	5.619*** (2.093)	5.999*** (2.017)	7.165*** (1.787)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	1.587 (1.593)	2.278 (1.425)	2.185 (1.495)	1.541 (1.555)	1.296 (1.612)	1.378 (1.575)
Observations	14,341	14,341	14,341	14,185	13,665	13,516
Family firm	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy
Industry*famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year*famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). *sales93* is total firm sales in 1993. *empl93* is total employment in 1993. *R&Dint93* is R&D intensity (R&D expenditure/sales) in 1993. *capint93* is capital intensity (capital/employment) in 1993. We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms by  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms).

Table 5: Managing versus non-managing family members

Dependent variable: $\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Family members	dummy	dummy	number	number
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st}$	-4.137 (12.376)	-3.143 (12.413)	-1.574 (11.025)	-0.416 (11.109)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	0.296 (1.172)	0.200 (1.174)	0.109 (1.039)	-0.004 (1.045)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \text{FAMMGR93}_i$	27.338* (15.920)	30.768* (16.750)	18.241** (8.660)	19.429** (9.033)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \text{FAMMGR93}_i$	-2.385 (1.551)	-2.706* (1.632)	-1.711** (0.840)	-1.828** (0.878)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \text{FAMNOMGR93}_i$		-0.116 (0.235)		-12.909 (11.186)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \text{FAMNOMGR93}_i$		0.009 (0.024)		1.298 (1.077)
$\text{FAMMGR93}_i$	-0.121 (0.234)	-0.066*** (0.013)	-0.020 (0.110)	-0.020 (0.110)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \text{FAMMGR93}_i$	0.009 (0.023)	-24.103 (23.459)	0.002 (0.011)	0.002 (0.011)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	-0.066*** (0.013)	2.336 (2.253)	-0.063*** (0.012)	-0.063*** (0.012)
<b>Marginal effects:</b>				
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	5.426*** (2.089)	5.904*** (2.150)	4.068** (1.824)	4.241** (1.859)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	1.587 (1.593)	1.548 (1.603)	-0.375 (1.274)	-0.507 (1.310)
Observations	14,341	14,341	14,341	14,341
Industry*famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year*famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms).  $\text{FAMMGR93}_i$  in columns (1) and (2) is a dummy variable if the firm has family managers, and in column (3) and (4) it is the number of family managers.  $\text{FAMNOMGR93}_i$  in columns (1) and (2) is a dummy variable if the firm has family members in non-managing positions, and in column (3) and (4) it is the number of family members in non-managing positions. The marginal effects for family firms are computed for family firms with the average number of family managers (1.6). We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms by  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms).

Table 6: Family ownership and management changes

Dependent variable:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	Change in family mgmt
<b>Marginal effects:</b>				
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	5.426*** (2.089)	10.40* (5.473)	10.78*** (4.027)	1.677 (2.116)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	1.587 (1.593)	3.076 (3.155)	-3.703 (4.677)	0.671 (1.172)
Observations	14,341	3,086	8,885	14,341
Sample	all	family owned	non-switchers	all
Industry * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). Sample “family owned” restricts the sample to firms that are family owned in 2006 (earlier information about family ownership is unfortunately not available in the data). Sample “non-switchers” drops family firms that change to professional management at some point in the sample. We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms by  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms). Regression coefficients are not reported to save space, and are available on request.

Table 7: Mechanism: R&amp;D and innovation related outcomes

Dependent variable:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	Change R&D dummy	$\Delta \ln(\text{R\&D exp}_{it})$	Change in # patents
<b>Marginal effects:</b>				
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	5.426*** (2.089)	-0.782 (1.038)	3.118 (8.946)	12.16 (8.883)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	1.587 (1.593)	-0.333 (1.019)	4.942 (3.485)	-11.56 (10.63)
Observations	14,341	14,169	4,769	14,283
Family firm	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy
Industry * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms by  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms). Regression coefficients are not reported to save space, and are available on request. Note that results in column (1) are robust to using the samples in columns (2) to (4).

Table 8: Decomposition of effect

Dependent variable:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	$\Delta\ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta\ln(\text{valueadded}_{it})$	$\Delta\ln(\text{sales}_{it})$	$\Delta\ln(\text{material}_{it})$	$\Delta\ln(\text{empl}_{it})$	$\Delta\ln(\text{cap}_{it})$
<b>Marginal effects:</b>						
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	5.426*** (2.089)	5.594*** (1.843)	-0.675 (1.074)	-3.001* (1.592)	0.168 (1.507)	-0.725 (3.417)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	1.587 (1.593)	1.246 (1.622)	0.0390 (1.031)	-0.961 (1.023)	-0.340 (0.843)	-0.091 (1.990)
Observations	14,341	14,341	14,341	14,340	14,341	14,024
Family firm	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy
Industry * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms by  $\frac{\partial \Delta\ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta\text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta\ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta\text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms). Regression coefficients are not reported to save space, and are available on request.

Table 9: Heterogeneous effects by number of family managers

Marginal effects reported	(1) Non-family firms	(2) 1 fam mgr	(3) >1 fam mgr	(4) Non-family firms	(5) 1 fam mgr	(6) >1 fam mgr
<b>Panel A. Dependent variable: <math>\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})</math></b>						
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	-1.413 (1.815)	3.999** (1.851)	4.583* (2.459)	-1.307 (2.058)	4.084* (2.221)	5.757* (3.207)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	-0.936 (0.939)	0.282 (1.278)	1.058 (2.058)	-0.890 (1.037)	0.824 (1.436)	0.620 (2.235)
Observations	7,834	3,580	2,927	7,759	3,536	2,900
<b>Panel B. Dependent variable: New organizational method dummy</b>						
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	0.301 (0.807)	0.728 (1.354)	2.223 (2.227)	0.115 (0.844)	1.128 (1.380)	3.421* (1.871)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	-0.421 (0.806)	-1.091 (1.343)	-3.729** (1.710)	-0.401 (0.949)	-1.162 (1.371)	-3.775** (1.558)
Observations	7,899	3,551	2,871	7,827	3,508	2,844
<b>Panel C. Dependent variable: New machinery dummy</b>						
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	-0.707 (0.937)	-1.715 (1.399)	-0.436 (2.669)	0.125 (0.929)	-2.045 (1.527)	0.536 (2.224)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	-0.658 (0.823)	-0.437 (1.258)	-4.498* (2.671)	-1.029 (0.943)	-0.129 (1.155)	-3.817 (2.878)
Observations	7,899	3,551	2,871	7,827	3,508	2,844
Industry * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Firm FE				yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms by  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms). Regression coefficients are not reported to save space, and are available on request.



## C Proofs

### C.1 Proof of Proposition 1

*Proof.* Consider the following:

1. Solving the  $P$ -type manager's objective function in equation (5.2) yields  $\beta_P(\phi) = \phi$ . Plugging this into the utility function, the manager gets a payoff of  $U_P(\phi) = \eta + \frac{1}{2}\phi^2 - f$  as a function of the initial productivity draw. The manager will let the firm exit (before exerting the effort) when she expects to receive a non-positive utility from running the firm; we can solve for the non-exit cutoff of the firm by setting  $U_P(\bar{\phi}_P) = 0$ . Solving for this means the firm exists iff  $\phi \geq \bar{\phi}_P \equiv \sqrt{2(f - \eta)}$ . Because effort costs are strictly positive for positive effort, the firm's profit is strictly positive whenever the firm exists, while the  $P$ -type manager's payoff is only non-negative (i.e., zero at the cutoff).
2. The optimal profit function is  $\beta_P(\phi) = \phi$  and therefore increasing in  $\phi$ .
3. Solving the  $F$ -type manager's objective function in equation (5.1) also yields  $\beta_F(\phi) = \phi$ . The manager will exert this as long as both his utility and firm profits are positive. Under the assumption  $\bar{U} > \frac{f - \eta}{2}$ , the profit function cuts the payoff function from below and we only need to check for non-negative profits in order to understand when this behavior is optimal. This means solving for  $\pi(\phi) = \eta + \phi^2 - f = 0$  yields that this is the optimal effort as long as  $\phi \geq \sqrt{(f - \eta)}$ . If  $\phi < \sqrt{(f - \eta)}$ , however, the manager can avoid losing the private benefit  $\bar{U}$  by exerting a bit more effort and keeping the company alive. Making sure the firm's profits are non-negative, i.e., solving for  $\beta$  in  $\pi(\beta) = \eta + \phi\beta - f = 0$  yields the effort function  $\beta_F(\phi) = \frac{f - \eta}{\phi}$ . Plugging the effort into the utility function, the payoff is  $U_F(\phi) = \bar{U} - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{f - \eta}{\phi} \right)^2$ . Under the assumption  $\bar{U} > \frac{f - \eta}{2}$ , this is strictly positive at  $\phi = \sqrt{(f - \eta)}$  so the manager gains by choosing this effort level. However, if the initial productivity of the firm is too low, such that the payoff function even under this utility is zero, the firm exits. The non-exit cutoff can therefore be obtained from setting  $U_F(\bar{\phi}_F) = 0$  which yields  $\bar{\phi}_F = \frac{f - \eta}{\sqrt{2\bar{U}}}$ . The firm exits if the productivity draw is below  $\bar{\phi}_F$ .
4. Notice that  $\beta_F(\phi) = \frac{f - \eta}{\phi}$  is decreasing in  $\phi$ , while  $\beta_P(\phi) = \phi$  is increasing in  $\phi$ .

□

### C.2 Proof of Proposition 2

*Proof.* Consider the following:

1. As effort  $\beta_P(\phi) = \phi$  increases in  $\phi$ , the realized productivity of  $P$ -type firms,  $\beta_P(\phi)\phi$ , also increases in  $\phi$ .
2. The same pattern holds for  $F$ -type firms, when  $\phi \geq \sqrt{f - \eta}$ . Realized productivity  $\beta_F(\phi)\phi = f - \eta$  for  $\phi \in [\bar{\phi}_F, \sqrt{f - \eta})$ , i.e., constant.
3.  $P$ -type firms have higher average realized productivity than  $F$ -type firms as  $P$ -type firms have a higher exit cutoff than  $F$ -type firms and realized productivity weakly increases in the initial productivity  $\phi$  for both types of firms.
4. Note that for any value of realized productivity above  $2(f - \eta)$  the corresponding value of the initial productivity draw is the same for  $P$ -type firms and  $F$ -type firms. Also note that only  $F$ -type firms have realized productivity below  $(f - \eta)$ . Since the initial productivity draw follows the same Pareto distribution for both  $F$ -type firms and  $P$ -type firms, the distribution of realized productivity of  $P$ -type firms first order stochastically dominates that of  $F$ -type firms.

□

### C.3 Proof of Proposition 3

*Proof.* Consider:

1. Notice that both exit cutoffs (i.e.,  $\bar{\phi}_P$  and  $\bar{\phi}_F$ ) are increasing functions of  $\eta$  and therefore both exit cutoffs increase after import competition intensifies. However, both effort  $\beta_P(\phi) = \phi$  and realized productivity  $\phi\beta_P(\phi)$  of surviving  $P$ -type firms are independent of  $\eta$ , and therefore do not change after import competition increases.
2. For the same argument, effort and realized productivity of surviving  $F$ -type firms are independent of  $\eta$  as long as productivity is high enough after the shock, i.e.,  $\phi \geq \sqrt{f - \eta_2}$ . However, effort below the kink  $\sqrt{f - \eta_2}$  is an increasing function of  $\eta$ . For  $F$ -type firms with  $\phi \in \left[\frac{f - \eta_2}{\sqrt{2\bar{u}}}, \sqrt{f - \eta_2}\right)$ , the manager's effort after the import shock is  $\beta(\phi, \eta_2) = \frac{f - \eta_2}{\phi}$ , while it was

$$\beta_F(\phi, \eta_1) = \begin{cases} \phi & \text{if } \phi \in \left[\sqrt{f - \eta_1}, \sqrt{f - \eta_2}\right) \\ \frac{f - \eta_1}{\phi} & \text{if } \phi \in \left[\frac{f - \eta_2}{\sqrt{2\bar{u}}}, \sqrt{f - \eta_1}\right) \end{cases}$$

before import competition increased. As  $\eta_1 < \eta_2$ , effort increases for  $\phi \in \left[\frac{f - \eta_2}{\sqrt{2\bar{u}}}, \sqrt{f - \eta_2}\right)$ . Realized productivity is a positive function of effort for surviving firms, so realized productivity increases for these firms.

3. As only the realized productivity for initially unproductive surviving  $F$ -type firm increases, i.e.,  $\phi < \sqrt{f - \eta_2}$ , and the realized productivity of all other firms are unchanged, the proposition follows directly.<sup>49</sup>

□

#### C.4 Proof of Proposition 4

*Proof.* Consider the following:

1. The exit cutoff on the realized log productivity is  $\bar{\phi}_P \beta_P(\bar{\phi}_P) = 2(f - \eta)$  and  $\bar{\phi}_F \beta_F(\bar{\phi}_F) = f - \eta$  for  $P$ -type firms and  $F$ -type firms, respectively. As both cutoffs are decreasing functions of  $\eta$ , both cutoffs increase when import competition increases. Furthermore, the exit probability (either zero or one) decreases in the initially realized productivity, as firms exit if and only if their realized productivity is below the exit cutoff.
2. Note that the exit cutoff on realized productivity is always higher for  $P$  type than for  $F$  type firms. Therefore,  $P$  type firms are more likely to exit than  $F$  type firms when import competition increases, if both of them have the same initial realized productivity.

□

---

<sup>49</sup>Notice that, strictly speaking, we should not observe  $P$ -type firms that are as unproductive as those  $F$ -type firms that are increasing their productivity in the data. However, the real world is probably more complex than our stylized model: Either measurement error in productivity, a random component to realized productivity after exerting effort, or smaller fixed cost for  $F$ -type firms can generate the overlap in initial productivity among family and non-family firms that we see in the data while preserving the predictions of the model. For an example of how differential fixed costs effect predictions, see the figure and notes in the online appendix.

# ONLINE APPENDIX - NOT FOR PUBLICATION

“Import Competition, Heterogeneous Preferences of Managers, and Productivity”

Cheng Chen and Claudia Steinwender

## D ONLINE APPENDIX - Data Description

This paper uses panel data from a Spanish survey of manufacturing firms (ESEE; Encuesta Sobre Estrategias Empresariales) that is collected by the Fundación SEPI, a foundation affiliated with the Spanish Ministry of Finance and Public Administration. The ESEE started in 1990. Since then, about 1,800 firms are surveyed every year. SEPI points out that they put special effort in systematically tracking changes in the firms legal status (e.g., mergers, acquisitions, etc.). ESEE is designed to be a representative sample of Spanish manufacturing firms. All firms with more than 200 employees are included in the survey; firms between 10 and 200 employees were selected through a stratified, proportional and systematic sampling. In 1990, 2,188 firms were part of the survey. The initial firms are tracked annually until they either exit or become non-responsive. Non-responsive firms are contacted by SEPI repeatedly to encourage participation and their legal status is tracked down (e.g., exit); if this is fruitless, new firms are incorporated in the panel designed to preserve the consistency of the sample.

More information about the data set and researcher access are provided on their website: <https://www.fundacionsepi.es/investigacion/esee/en/spresentacion.asp>.

We used the following variables in the analysis:

### Family firms

The variable PAFDG gives the “Number of owners and working family members who hold managing positions in the company on December 31” of a year. Note that an owner is not necessarily a majority owner and a founder is not necessarily an owner. Our main regressor, called family firm or family-managed firm, is a dummy variable that is 1 if the number of owners and working relatives holding managing positions is bigger than or equal to one. Also note that while the data set includes information on the number of family managers, it does not contain information of the number of overall managers (i.e., professional managers).

Figure E.1 shows the distribution of the number of family managers for family-managed firms in 1993. Figure E.2 shows the distribution of family firms across industries in 1993. The share of family firms varies between 17% in industries like beverages and vehicles to 69% in leather/fur/footwear and furniture. Table F.2 shows the number of family firms across

all years in the sample. Table F.3 shows that there is no significant relationship between the changes in import tariffs and the changes in the share of family firms across industries. Furthermore, Table F.4 runs regressions at the firm level and shows that neither the number of family managers nor the probability of being a family firm is correlated with tariff changes or the firm's initial productivity.

The variable PAFOO gives the "Number of owners and working family members who hold non-managing positions in the company on December 31" of a year. Figure E.3 shows the distribution of the number of family members in non-managing positions for firms that have at least 1 family member in non-managing positions in 1993.

In order to distinguish family management from family ownership, we use the indicator variable FAMILI which indicates whether "a family group participates actively in the control and/or management of the company." As this variable is only available in 2006, we use this value to classify firms as family-owned throughout the sample period, assuming family ownership is persistent.

## Productivity

Our main productivity measure is labor productivity, defined as deflated value added per worker (using input and output deflators at the firm level):

$$labprod93_i = (VENTAS * OUTPR - COINT * INPR) / PERTOT$$

using the following variables from ESEE as inputs into in the calculation:

The variable VENTAS gives sales in euro. This variable includes the sales of goods, the sales of transformed products (finished and half-finished), and the provision of services and other sales (packages, packaging, byproducts and waste). Discounts and sales returns are excluded. We use the variable VPV, which reports the percentage change in sales prices compared to the previous year, to construct an annual firm level output deflator OUTPR that equals 1 in 1993, our base year.

We use the variable COINT, which gives the sum of purchases of goods and external services minus the variation in the stock of purchases in euro, as a measure of intermediate inputs. We use the variable VPCOINT, which reports the percentage change in prices of intermediate consumption compared to the previous year, to construct an annual firm level input deflator INPR that equals 1 in 1993, our base year.

We use the variable PERTOT, which gives the total personnel employed at the company as of December 31st, as a measure of employment.

Notice that our price correction can only be applied to *changes* in prices, not in order to compare differences across firms. We normalize the price indices for each firm to be equal to 1 in 1993 (our base year), which means that we measure labor productivity in 1993 in values.

The price adjustment therefore compares changes in productivity with respect to their initial levels in 1993.

In robustness checks we use an alternative productivity measure, denoted as *TFPOP*, to measure total factor productivity (TFP). We use the Olley and Pakes (1996) estimation approach augmented with a De Loecker-type correction, which allows for the family status (of the firm) and import tariffs to directly affect the evolution of firm TFP (i.e., De Loecker, 2007, 2013). In Olley and Pakes (1996) the value of investment is used as the proxy in the estimation. The variable CIM gives the value of investment. The variable IN gives value of total net fixed assets, which is the value of fixed assets minus the accumulated depreciation and reserves in euro. Note that this is based on firm-specific depreciation so we do not need to use industry-specific or even economy-wide depreciation rates. In our data, 83% of observations have positive investment values; the problem of too-frequent zeros in investment is not a big concern in this case. For the De Loecker (2007)-type correction we include a dummy variable for family firms in the production function in order to account for the possibility that family firms might have different technologies than non-family firms; and we include a dummy variable for family firms as well as import tariffs into the inversion step of the Olley-Pakes-style TFP estimation (i.e., the second step) as our empirical finding suggests that these two variables may affect firm productivity (even conditioning on the same technology). Finally, as we do not have enough observations in each of the twenty industries, we group firms into light manufacturing industries (NACECLIO industry codes: 1-10) and heavy manufacturing industries (NACECLIO industry codes: 11-20) to implement the productivity estimation.

We also alternatively divide deflated value added by total hours worked (using the variable HETN denoting total effective hours worked) or by the total wage bill (using the variable CP which records gross salaries and wages, compensation, social security contributions paid by the company, contributions made to supplementary pension systems, and other social expenses).

### **Innovation and R&D**

The variable GTID reports total expenses in R&D (including internal and external R&D expenses) from which we construct the R&D dummy and log R&D expenses.

Variables PATESP and PATEXT report the number of patents registered in Spain and abroad, respectively. We use the sum of both to construct the total number of patents registered in a given year.

The variable TIPSO is a categorical variable that records the kind of process innovation undertaken by the company during the course of the year. Possible answers include organizational methods and/or the introduction of new machinery.

## **Exit**

The variable IDSIT has four values: 0 without access (impossible to contact the firm or temporary closure); 1 if the firm answers; 2 if the firm disappears (definite closure or company in liquidation or change to non-manufacturing activity or taken over by another company or less important company merged with other company), 3 if the firm refuses to collaborate. We treat observations whose value for IDSIT is 2 as firm-year pairs that exit in a given year.

## **Industry classification and trade-related variables**

The variable NACECLIO indicates the industry within which the firm operates. In total, we have 20 industries (it is not possible to obtain a more disaggregated split due to confidentiality issues). The 20 industries are: meat related products; food and tobacco; beverage; textiles and clothing; leather, fur, and footwear; timber; paper; printing and publishing; chemicals; plastic and rubber products; nonmetal mineral products; basic metal products; fabricated metal products; industrial and agricultural equipment; office machinery, data processing, precision instruments and similar; electric materials and accessories; vehicles and accessories; other transportation materials; furniture; miscellaneous. The industries are based on the Spanish CNAE classification.

The variables VEXPOR and VIMPOR report the value of exports and imports in euro, respectively.

The variable IMPTEC indicates the value of imported technologies (i.e. payments for licenses and technical aid from abroad) from which we construct a dummy variable for whether the firm used imported technologies in a given year.

## E ONLINE APPENDIX - Figures

Figure E.1: Number of family managers per family firm, 1993

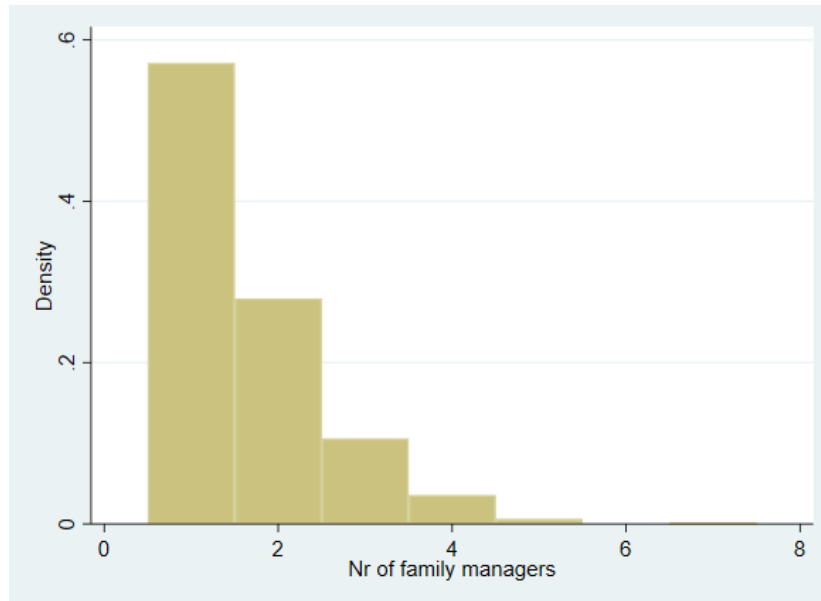


Figure E.2: Distribution of family firms across industries, 1993

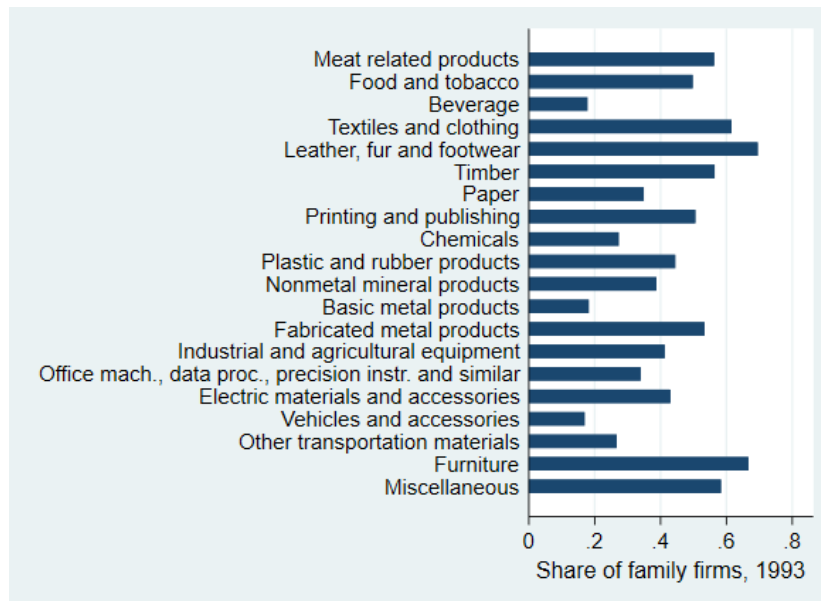




Figure E.3: Number of family members in non-managing positions for firms that have any, 1993

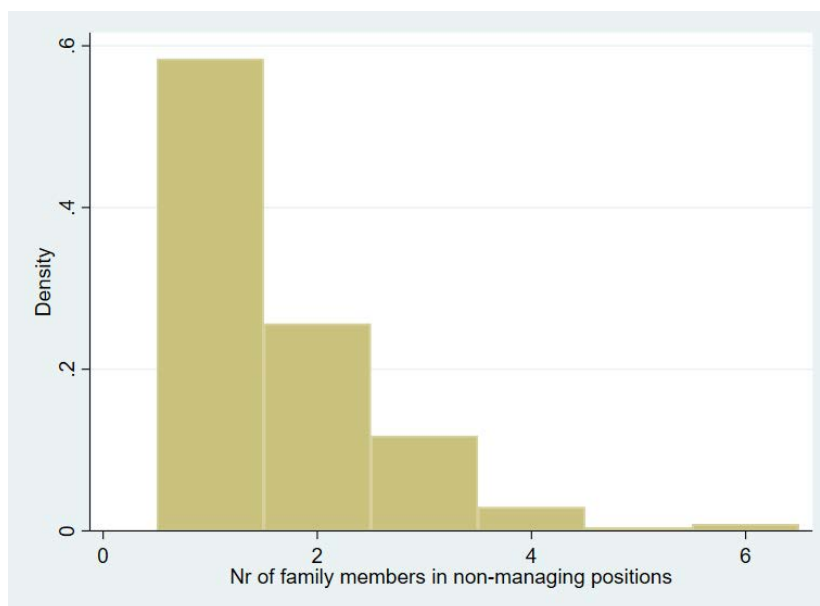


Figure E.4: Distribution of initial labor productivity, by type of firm, 1993



## F ONLINE APPENDIX - Tables

Table F.1: Changes in import tariffs, across time

Year	Mean of change in import tariff, percentage points
1994	-0.078
1995	-0.433
1996	-1.000
1997	0.204
1998	-1.065
1999	-0.197
2000	-0.219
2001	-0.167
2002	0.063
2003	-0.847
2004	-0.047
2005	-0.236
2006	0.079
2007	0.561
All years	-0.215

Table F.2: Number of family firms in sample, across time

Year	Non-family firms	Family firms
1993	1,018	848
1994	1,092	784
1995	973	725
1996	950	766
1997	1,121	799
1998	1,188	588
1999	1,087	667
2000	1,300	570
2001	1,129	595
2002	1,127	581
2003	809	571
2004	801	573
2005	1,052	859
2006	1,038	985
2007	984	1,029

Table F.3: Relationship between tariff changes and changes in family firm share, industry-level

Dependent variable:	(1)	(2)	(3)
$\Delta$ share of family firms			
$\Delta IMP_{st}$	0.044 (0.186)	0.139 (0.222)	0.300 (0.275)
Observations	280	280	280
Year FEs	no	yes	yes
Industry FEs	no	no	yes

Notes: The data for this table is collapsed to the industry level. This table shows that there is no significant relationship between changes in import tariffs and changes in the share of family-managed firms of an industry. \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Robust standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms).

Table F.4: Relationship between tariff changes and changes in family firms, firm-level

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	$\Delta$ number fam mgr	$\Delta$ number fam mgr	$\Delta$ number fam mgr	$\Delta$ Prob fam mgd firm	$\Delta$ Prob fam mgd firm	$\Delta$ Prob fam mgd firm
$\Delta IMP_{st}$	-0.626 (0.983)	-0.624 (0.982)	1.726 (9.850)	-0.544 (0.649)	-0.543 (0.649)	2.508 (5.439)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$		0.005 (0.005)	0.006 (0.006)		0.002 (0.002)	0.003 (0.003)
$\Delta IMP_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$			-0.229 (0.917)			-0.297 (0.506)
Observations	14,354	14,354	14,354	14,507	14,507	14,507
Industry FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms).

Table F.5: Effect of import competition for family versus non-family firms

Dep var: $\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	(1)	(2)	(3)
Sample:	All firms	Family firms	Non-family firms
$\Delta IMP_{st}$	0.224 (0.660)	2.078** (0.838)	-1.062 (0.912)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	-0.061*** (0.013)	-0.063*** (0.023)	-0.065*** (0.011)
Observations	14,355	6,507	7,834
Year FE	yes	yes	yes
Industry FE	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms).

Table F.6: Productivity responses are immediate

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dep var:	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$
Sample:	Family firms	Non-family firms	Family firms	Non-family firms
$\Delta IMP_{st}$	23.201** (10.341)	-4.137 (12.376)	33.120** (14.724)	13.148 (13.459)
$\Delta IMP_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod}_{93i})$	-2.088** (1.022)	0.296 (1.172)	-3.200** (1.462)	-1.325 (1.274)
$\Delta IMP_{st-1}$			-8.659 (21.861)	-0.088 (12.446)
$\Delta IMP_{st-1} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod}_{93i})$			0.620 (2.142)	0.086 (1.185)
$\ln(\text{labprod}_{93i})$	-0.057** (0.024)	-0.066*** (0.013)	0.001 (0.010)	-0.015* (0.008)
<i>Current effects evaluated at:</i>				
10th prod percentile	4.013*** (1.239)	-1.413 (1.815)	3.715** (1.501)	0.970 (1.924)
90th prod percentile	0.651 (1.104)	-0.936 (0.949)	-1.437 (1.345)	-1.163 (0.922)
<i>Lagged effects evaluated at:</i>				
10th prod percentile			-2.965 (2.491)	0.703 (1.784)
90th prod percentile			-1.967 (1.817)	0.841 (1.005)
Observations	6,507	7,834	5,788	6,952
Year FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Industry FE	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). Marginal effects are calculated for different percentiles of the initial productivity distribution, analogous to the main tables.

Table F.7: Effect of import competition — non-parametric regressions

Dep var: $\Delta \ln(labprod_{it})$	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Family firms				Non-family firms			
$\Delta IMP_{st}$	3.311*** (1.081)	3.841*** (1.299)	3.001* (1.666)	3.333** (1.555)	-1.284 (1.386)	-1.677 (1.396)	-1.790 (1.886)	-1.018 (1.686)
$\Delta IMP_{st} \cdot Perc2$	0.629 (1.067)	0.507 (1.278)	3.524** (1.460)	2.763* (1.538)	-0.930 (0.958)	-2.633 (1.604)	-0.824 (1.498)	-1.313 (1.670)
$\Delta IMP_{st} \cdot Perc3$		1.144 (1.169)	-0.048 (1.708)	2.062 (2.169)		0.014 (1.084)	-3.296*** (1.273)	-2.430* (1.474)
$\Delta IMP_{st} \cdot Perc4$			1.352 (1.101)	1.264 (1.623)			0.669 (1.128)	-1.663 (1.630)
$\Delta IMP_{st} \cdot Perc5$				0.497 (1.316)				0.115 (1.243)
Observations	6,507	6,507	6,507	6,507	7,834	7,834	7,834	7,834
Nr of percentiles	2	3	4	5	2	3	4	5
Percentile FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Industry FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms).

Table F.8: Effect of import competition — pooled regression; period 1993 to 2000

Dependent variable:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta\ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta\ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta\ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta\ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$
<i>Marginal effects:</i>				
Non-family firms, p10	-2.925 (2.239)	-2.993 (2.256)		-3.072 (2.831)
Non-family firms, p90	-0.112 (1.221)	-0.0610 (1.210)		0.198 (1.341)
Family firms, p10	3.354** (1.492)	3.418** (1.533)		4.814** (2.414)
Family firms, p90	2.845 (2.203)	2.844 (2.206)		2.342 (2.399)
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	6.279** (2.447)	6.411** (2.498)	3.807** (1.490)	7.886*** (2.999)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	2.957 (2.702)	2.905 (2.686)	3.486 (2.796)	2.144 (2.678)
Observations	8,958	8,958	8,958	8,958
Family firm	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy
Industry * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Region * famfirm FE		yes		
Industry * year FE			yes	
Firm FE				yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). There are 17 regions in our data (corresponding to autonomous regions in Spain). We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal effects for non-family firms as  $\frac{\partial \Delta\ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta\text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$  and the ones for family-firms as  $\frac{\partial \Delta\ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta\text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} = \beta_1 + \beta_3 + (\beta_2 + \beta_4) \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , while the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms are given by  $\frac{\partial \Delta\ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta\text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta\ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta\text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ . We evaluate all marginal effects at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms).

Table F.9: Effect of import competition — number of family managers

Dependent variable:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$
<i>Marginal effects (family firms = firms with average number of family managers):</i>				
Non-family firms, p10	-0.569 (1.680)	-0.566 (1.695)		-0.627 (1.908)
Non-family firms, p90	-0.393 (0.888)	-0.391 (0.887)		-0.232 (0.979)
Family firms, p10	3.499*** (1.184)	3.499*** (1.193)		4.797*** (1.808)
Family firms, p90	-0.767 (0.956)	-0.793 (0.955)		-0.941 (1.065)
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	4.068** (1.824)	4.065** (1.821)	3.603*** (1.303)	5.424** (2.391)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	-0.375 (1.274)	-0.403 (1.270)	-0.581 (1.447)	-0.709 (1.324)
Observations	14,341	14,341	14,341	14,195
Family firm	# members	# members	# members	# members
Industry * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Region * famfirm FE		yes		
Industry * year FE			yes	
Firm FE				yes

Notes: \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001. Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). Same regressions as in Table 3, except that the family firm dummy is replaced by *NRFAM93<sub>i</sub>*; the number of family managers in 1993. Famfirm for the fixed effects is still a family firm dummy. The marginal effects for family firms are computed for family firms with the average number of family managers (1.6). Marginal effects are computed with respect to different percentiles of the initial productivity distribution. Regression coefficients are omitted to preserve space;but are available upon request. For the specification in column (1) we evaluate the differential marginal effects also separately for different number of family managers:

<i>Marginal effects</i>	By number of family managers						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	2.522** (1.131)	5.043** (2.262)	7.565** (3.393)	10.087** (4.524)	12.609** (5.655)	15.130** (6.786)	17.652** (7.917)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	-0.232 (0.789)	-0.465 (1.579)	-0.697 (2.369)	-0.929 (3.158)	-1.161 (3.948)	-1.394 (4.737)	-1.626 (5.527)

Table F.10: Effect of import competition — lagged TFP instead of TFP in 1993

Dependent variable:	(1)	(2)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$
<b>Marginal effects:</b>		
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	3.180** (1.544)	3.892* (2.36)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	1.035 (1.625)	-0.574 (2.223)
Observations	14,341	21,868
Family firm status $FAM_i$	1993	$t - 1$
Industry * famfirm FE	yes	yes
Year * famfirm FE	yes	yes
Industry * year FE	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). In column (2), we group lagged labor productivity into 20 percentiles per calendar year (the results are not sensitive to the number of percentile bins used). We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms by  $\left. \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta IMP_{st}} \right|_{FAM93_i=1} - \left. \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta IMP_{st}} \right|_{FAM93_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod}_{i,t-1})$ , evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the overall productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms). Regression coefficients are not reported to save space, and are available on request.

Table F.11: Robustness — alternative productivity measures

Dependent variable: $\Delta \ln(\text{prod}_{it})$	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Productivity measure (in logs):	TFP OP	TFP OP	VA/hours	VA/hours	VA/wages	VA/wages
<b>Marginal effects:</b>						
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	5.506*** (2.022)	3.752** (1.535)	4.824** (2.038)	3.270** (1.466)	6.241*** (1.950)	4.797*** (1.833)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	0.847 (1.563)	1.332 (1.697)	2.111 (1.472)	2.288 (1.593)	2.946*** (1.107)	1.702 (1.097)
Observations	13,418	13,418	13,838	13,838	14,341	14,341
Industry * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Industry * year FE		yes		yes		yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). TFPOP uses estimated total factor productivity using a Olley-Pakes type estimation approach augmented with a De Loecker-type correction (details in online appendix). VA/hours= deflated value added per hour worked. VA/wages=deflated value added divided by the total wagebill. All TFP measures are logged. We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms by  $\left. \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta IMP_{st}} \right|_{FAM93_i=1} - \left. \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta IMP_{st}} \right|_{FAM93_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod}_{93_i})$ , evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms). Regression coefficients are not reported to save space, and are available on request.



Table F.12: Robustness — propensity score reweighing and nearest neighbor matching

Dependent variable: $\Delta \ln(\text{prod}_{it})$	(1)	(3)
Method:	IPSW	NN
<i>Marginal effects:</i>		
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	9.000*** (3.073)	7.785*** (2.443)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	0.209 (3.629)	2.348 (2.125)
Observations	14,314	12,287
Industry * famfirm FE	yes	yes
Year * famfirm FE	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). IPSW = inverse propensity score reweighing. NN = nearest neighbor matching. Both methods use the following variables to predict family firm status in 1993: log labor productivity, log sales, log employment, and an export dummy. Nearest neighbor matching uses 5 neighbors. We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms by  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms). Regression coefficients are not reported to save space, and are available on request.

Table F.13: Controlling for input and export tariffs

Dependent variable:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$
$\Delta IMP_{st}$	-4.137 (12.376)	5.226 (13.036)	-5.920 (11.826)	0.690 (11.903)
$\Delta IMP_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	0.296 (1.172)	-0.618 (1.242)	0.496 (1.118)	-0.142 (1.128)
$\Delta IMP_{st} \cdot FAM93_i$	27.338* (15.920)	35.290* (19.722)	23.344 (15.453)	21.037 (15.428)
$\Delta IMP_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot FAM93_i$	-2.385 (1.551)	-3.215* (1.931)	-2.023 (1.496)	-1.813 (1.505)
$\Delta INTAR_{st}$		43.351** (19.855)		28.402 (24.892)
$\Delta INTAR_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$		-4.299** (1.957)		-2.747 (2.423)
$\Delta INTAR_{st} \cdot FAM93_i$		62.431 (58.434)		-4.812 (31.079)
$\Delta INTAR_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot FAM93_i$		-6.074 (5.696)		0.482 (3.128)
$\Delta EXPTAR_{st}$			-9.582** (4.786)	-7.938 (5.350)
$\Delta EXPTAR_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$			1.018** (0.472)	0.859 (0.525)
$\Delta EXPTAR_{st} \cdot FAM93_i$			-11.117 (7.564)	-11.011 (7.435)
$\Delta EXPTAR_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot FAM93_i$			1.073 (0.754)	1.060 (0.741)
$FAM93_i$	-0.121 (0.234)	-0.067 (0.235)	-0.217 (0.155)	-0.215 (0.172)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot FAM93_i$	0.009 (0.023)	0.004 (0.023)	0.020 (0.015)	0.020 (0.016)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	-0.066*** (0.013)	-0.069*** (0.013)	-0.060*** (0.012)	-0.063*** (0.013)
<b>Marginal effects:</b>				
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	5.426*** (2.089)	5.753** (2.387)	4.756** (2.080)	4.379** (2.021)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	1.587 (1.593)	0.578 (1.825)	1.499 (1.462)	1.461 (1.567)
Observations	14,341	14,341	14,341	14,341
Family firm	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy
Industry * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year * famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001. Notes: \* p<0.05, \*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001. Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). *INTAR* denotes a weighted average of import tariffs of the inputs of an industry, where input shares are constructed from the Spanish IO tables. *EXPTAR* denotes the weighted average of tariffs that other countries impose on imports from the EU. Effects evaluated at 10th (and 90th) percentile refer to the effects of average (annual) import tariff reduction on the change of log productivity for firms that are at the 10th (and 90th) percentile of the overall initial productivity distribution in 1993 (i.e., including both family and non-family firms).

Table F.14: Importing and exporting

Dependent variable:	(1) Change in importing dummy	(2) $\Delta \ln(\text{imp}_{it})$	(3) Change in imported technology dummy	(4) $\Delta \ln(\text{imp tech}_{it})$	(5) Change exporting dummy	(6) $\Delta \ln(\text{exp}_{it})$
<i>Marginal effects:</i>						
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	-1.471 (1.302)	0.365 (5.900)	-0.499 (0.615)	-4.473 (22.77)	-1.058 (1.097)	8.689 (6.614)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	0.262 (1.199)	3.308 (3.271)	1.051 (1.075)	-16.04 (18.40)	0.767 (0.796)	5.631 (3.848)
Observations	14,203	8,352	14,283	1,341	14,291	8,566
Family firm	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy	dummy
Industry*famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year*famfirm FE	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms by  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms). Regression coefficients are not reported to save space, and are available on request.

Table F.15: No differential change in employment

	(1)	(2)	(5)	(6)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{emp})_{it}$	$\Delta \ln(\text{temporary})_{it}$	$\Delta \text{famempl}_{it}$
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st}$	-4.137 (12.376)	-4.342 (11.370)	79.696 (77.306)	-7.438 (15.103)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	0.296 (1.172)	0.419 (1.107)	-7.565 (7.217)	0.434 (1.473)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \text{FAM93}_i$	27.338* (15.920)	3.069 (12.963)	103.024 (85.003)	21.148 (34.461)
$\Delta \text{IMP}_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \text{FAM93}_i$	-2.385 (1.551)	-0.316 (1.257)	-8.839 (7.786)	-1.697 (3.306)
$\text{FAM93}_i$	-0.121 (0.234)	-0.093 (0.096)	0.262 (0.977)	-0.024 (0.261)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i) \cdot \text{FAM93}_i$	0.009 (0.023)	0.006 (0.009)	-0.009 (0.089)	0.002 (0.025)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	-0.066*** (0.013)	0.014** (0.007)	0.039 (0.043)	-0.010 (0.010)
<b>Marginal effects:</b>				
Family versus non-family firms, p 10	5.426*** (2.089)	0.168 (1.507)	21.81 (14.40)	5.554 (4.756)
Family versus non-family firms, p 90	1.587 (1.593)	-0.340 (0.843)	7.579 (5.617)	2.822 (2.923)
Observations	14,341	14,341	2,086	14,341
Industry FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Year FE	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: *emp* denotes the total number of employees. *temporary* denotes the number of employees employed through a temporary agency (variable PERETT). *famempl* denotes the total number of family members working in the firm. \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). We estimate regression equation (3.2) and calculate the marginal differential effects for family versus non-family firms by  $\frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=1} - \frac{\partial \Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})}{\partial \Delta \text{IMP}_{st}} \Big|_{\text{FAM93}_i=0} = \beta_3 + \beta_4 \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$ , evaluated at the 10th and 90th percentile of the initial productivity distribution (i.e., across non-family and family firms).

Table F.16: Robustness check: time horizon

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dep var:	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta_2 \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$	$\Delta_2 \ln(\text{labprod}_{it})$
Sample:	Family firms	Non-family firms	Family firms	Non-family firms
$\Delta IMP_{st}$	23.201** (10.341)	-4.137 (12.376)	29.752** (13.891)	21.655 (20.427)
$\Delta IMP_{st} \cdot \ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	-2.088** (1.022)	0.296 (1.172)	-2.673* (1.381)	-2.073 (1.957)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	-0.057** (0.024)	-0.066*** (0.013)	-0.107** (0.051)	-0.118*** (0.028)
<i>Effects evaluated at:</i>				
10th prod percentile	4.013*** (1.239)	-1.413 (1.815)	5.193*** (1.471)	2.607 (2.619)
90th prod percentile	0.651 (1.104)	-0.936 (0.949)	0.890 (1.378)	-0.730 (1.235)
Observations	6,507	7,834	3,117	3,736
Year FE	yes	yes	yes	yes
Industry FE	yes	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms). Marginal effects are calculated at different percentiles of the initial productivity distribution.

Table F.17: Exits

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Dependent variable: exit dummy			
Sample:	all	non-family	family
$\Delta IMP_{st}$	0.210* (0.119)	0.234* (0.128)	0.167 (0.232)
$\ln(\text{labprod93}_i)$	-0.004*** (0.001)	-0.002 (0.002)	-0.007*** (0.003)
Observations	22,524	12,319	10,176
Industry FE	yes	yes	yes
Year FE	yes	yes	yes

Notes: \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ . Standard errors in parentheses are two-way clustered (by industry-year pairs and firms).