

Imports, exports and the firm product scope: evidence from Turkey

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Abstract

Making use of an original dataset for Turkish manufacturing obtained from the merge of firm level custom and production data, we dissect the role of importing and exporting on the expansion of firm product scope and on the introduction of new products. Comparing the results from a single and a multiple treatment setting, we find that just starting to export has a positive effect on the firm innovative outcomes. Differently from previous evidence on the topic, importing alone does not matter for the firm product choices. However, the contemporaneous entry in the import and export markets delivers a higher innovation rate and a larger product scope, thus disclosing the existence of important complementarities between the two trading activities. Moreover, our investigation rests on the firm export activity of own produced products, that emerges as the real driver of innovation, and, indeed, suggests the need for a more careful definition of the export concept for manufacturing firms distinguishing the sales of own produced goods and trading goods.

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1 Introduction and Background

The upsurge of economic growth in new emerging markets is dramatically changing the global setting of international relations and the distribution of manufacturing activities across the world (WTO, 2008). The evolution of an initial simple economic structure based on few primary and low tech manufacturing products into a complex industrial system resting on several sectors and more advanced and knowledge intensive goods, poses the question on the driving forces behind such a structural change. Part of the economic literature has pointed at the role of trade in stimulating productivity and innovation. In particular, trade may favour the relaxing of firms' production constraints and may offer learning opportunities, in developing countries especially (Wagner, 2007; Kasahara and Rodrigue, 2008; Goldberg, Khandelwal, Pavcnik, and Topalova, 2009). The present paper adds to this topic providing evidence, at the firm level, on the causal effect of importing and exporting on both the introduction of new products and the firm product scope in Turkey. This emergent country is a particularly interesting case since it represents one of the most rapidly growing economies across the world and it is characterised by a highly dynamic manufacturing sector.¹ If firm international activities may affect its innovation rate and product range, it is likely that such effects can be disclosed within the Turkish economy, which is recently experiencing rapid changes in its trade and economic structure. International integration may, then, foster the development process and growth pattern of the country.

Making use of an original firm level dataset obtained from the merge of trade, production and balance sheet data, we allow for the mutual exclusivity of importing and exporting and their possible joint adoption by means of Multiple Propensity Score Matching (MPSM). This setting is expected to convey some insights on the relative importance of importing and exporting for developing new products and expanding the product scope. The findings are then compared to the ones from Single Propensity Score Matching (SPSM) resting on the investigation of one treatment at a time, where export and import entry are considered as isolated strategic decisions.

The existing literature suggests the presence of different channels through which firms' trade may affect product innovation and their choices about the product mix. First of all, the production of different varieties of goods may require differentiated and specialised inputs firms may not have at their dis-

¹According to World Development Indicators, after the 2001 crisis and till 2008 Turkey has experienced annual GDP growth rates between 5% and 9%. GDP was then stagnant in 2008 and declining in 2009 but in 2010 again the economy rapidly recovered and grew by a rate of 9%.

posal.² The import market entry, then, discloses to firms the opportunity to purchase cheaper and/or higher quality input and new intermediate varieties unavailable in the domestic market (Halpern, Koren, and Szeidl, 2005). The latter may relax some previous stringent constraints in production processes and allow firms to modify previously produced goods or to produce completely new goods (Goldberg, Khandelwal, Pavcnik, and Topalova, 2009). It follows that a larger variety of inputs may lead to a larger and diversified variety of produced goods. This is yet more valid for developing and emergent markets.

The role of export entry for the firm product scope and innovation, instead, rests on the prominence of contacts with foreign final customers and, more in general, with the foreign market context. Previous theoretical and empirical studies have documented the importance of buyer-supplier relationships for the enhancement of innovation efforts and competitiveness of downstream firms. This channel may be especially relevant in the case of foreign business relationships, due to the existence of differences in terms of technologies, preferences and tastes between the countries the two contractual parts belong to. In particular, in North-South relationships buyers in developed countries often transfer technology, knowledge, managerial practices, information about production techniques and processes to suppliers in developing countries and provide training to their workers (Egan and Mody, 1992; Rauch and Watson, 2003). This leads to new products' development, quality improvements and restyling of existing products. Suppliers from developing countries, from their side, are not simple recipients of these transfers but they engage in innovative efforts in order to absorb, take full advantage and fruitfully exploit the received technologies and knowledge (Goh, 2005). Furthermore, they tend to modify the offered products in order to adapt them to the tastes and needs of foreign customers. This is, for example, confirmed by Fafchamps, El Hamine, and Zeufack (2008), who find that Moroccan exporting firms design products that fit foreign market conditions. Finally, foreign buyers may be the source for the creation of further business relationships. Egan and Mody (1992) (p.329) write "When evaluating potential suppliers, virtually all buyers first seek information within their own network [...] The first source of information is the personal judgment of other buyers". By the same token, Rauch and Watson (2003) note that "one DC [developed country] buyer may introduce another to a supplier it encountered that makes a product variant that is better suited to the other buyer.". The impor-

²Management literature highlights the importance of the linkages between firms' choices of inputs and their decisions about the product variety to produce (Krishnan and Ulrich, 2001).

tance of customers as active players in the process of innovation of producers is also highlighted by [Baldwin and von Hippel \(2010\)](#), stating that technological progress is more and more based on single user innovation and open collaborative innovation. All these mechanisms may, then, drive the positive effects of exports on innovation.

Accounting for the effect of trade on product innovation, our work is closer to the recent literature providing evidence on the channels of learning by importing and by exporting at firm level.³ In particular, [Goldberg, Khandelwal, Pavcnik, and Topalova \(2010\)](#) document that trade liberalisation has contributed to the Indian manufacturing firms' product scope growth⁴ by both making imported inputs cheaper and relaxing technological constraints via access to new imported input varieties, unavailable prior to the liberalisation⁵. As in their work, we explore the effect of imports on the product scope, but we focus on the firm level importing activity instead of a sectoral import indicator⁶. The investigation of imports at firm level allows us to capture the purchase of new foreign products too, that is not accountable for by means of the sector level [Feenstra's \(1994\)](#) index they adopt in their work.

Furthermore, we also address the role of exports. The effect of exports on innovation, and in particular product innovation, is explored in several works, [Salomon and Shaver \(2005\)](#) for Spain, [Bratti and Felice \(2012\)](#) for Italy and [Hahn and Park \(2011\)](#) for Korea. All find evidence of a positive effect of exporting on new product introduction at the firm level. On the contrary, [Damijan, Kostevc, and Polanec \(2010\)](#), for the Slovenian case find that export entry

³Another strand of literature investigates the opposite causal nexus of the impact of innovation on trade ([Caldera, 2010](#); [Cassiman, Golovko, and Martínez-Ros, 2010](#)). Also, a recent line of research tests for the impact of sector level import competition on firm level innovation and quality ([Fernandes and Paunov, 2010](#); [Bloom, Draca, and Van Reenen, 2011](#)).

⁴[Seker and Rodriguez-Delgado \(2011\)](#) calibrate on the same Indian data a stochastic general equilibrium model where only more efficient firms can access foreign intermediates. The purchase of foreign inputs spurs knowledge spillovers that fosters the importing firm's innovation activity in the form of the introduction of new products. The model fits the data quite well, although it reproduces a much longer tail of the firm level product distribution and a too high share of multiproduct firms in total sales.

⁵At the industry level for the twenty-seven EU countries, a similar analysis is conducted by [Colantone and Crino' \(2011\)](#) who find that an increase in the variety of imported inputs within a sector determines an increase in the number of domestic products. Focusing instead on the firm export scope, [Bas and Strauss-Khan \(2011\)](#) show a positive effect of imported varieties on the number of exported goods by exporting firms.

⁶Because of our focus on the firm imports we do not address the dissection of the price and variety effect that is problematic at the firm level. Indeed, the price index of imported varieties computed in [Goldberg, Khandelwal, Pavcnik, and Topalova \(2010\)](#), and built according to [Feenstra \(1994\)](#), is aggregated at sector level and equally affects the product scope of firms within a sector. However, this issue is in our future research agenda.

spurs medium and large firms to introduce process innovations while it has no significant effect on the product innovation. Differently from the subjective measure of new products in [Salomon and Shaver \(2005\)](#) and from the traditional innovation dummy as in [Bratti and Felice \(2012\)](#) constructed on the firm direct answers in surveys, we are actually able to measure the firm product scope and the scope of new products, i.e. products not previously produced by the firm, as in [Damijan, Kostevc, and Polanec \(2010\)](#) and [Hahn and Park \(2011\)](#). In particular, the use of a very disaggregated product classification in order to identify the new products allows us to capture both “radical” innovations - products new for the market and not only for the firms - and “incremental” innovations consisting of slightly improvements of previously produced goods. This is an important point since the latter account for a large part of firm innovative efforts in emergent and developing countries ([Pamukcu, 2003](#)) and recent evidence has revealed the prominent role of incremental innovations, with respect to path-breaking innovations, on country growth ([Puga and Trefler, 2010](#)).

Within this framework, our work provides several original contributions. First, as far as we know, this paper is the first attempt to account for the impact of exporting, importing and two-way trading at the same time on the firm diversification and innovation. In particular, differently from the above literature, we test the role of imports at firm level and, thanks to availability of detailed product level trade and production data, we are able to separate exports of own products from exports of trading goods. The recent firm level evidence on Carry-Along-Trade ([Bernard, Blanchard, van Beveren, and Vandembussche, 2012](#)), indeed, is confirmed on Turkish data ([Araujo, Lo Turco, and Maggioni, 2012](#)). In principle, both kinds of export activities imply the establishment of network relations with foreign customers and both may, then, be relevant for the introduction process of new products. Nevertheless, resting on the discussion above, it is interesting to explore whether benefits mainly accrue from the exporting of own production. We may expect selling own produced goods to allow firms to directly benefit and learn from the best practices and the new technologies available in foreign markets and to translate them in their production activity. Furthermore, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first study dealing with the causal impact of trade on the product scope and innovation in Turkey⁷. Finally, we provide a methodological contribution by contrasting SPSM to MPSM results. It turns out that neglecting the possibility of the joint entry into importing and exporting may deliver mis-

⁷Only [Pamukcu \(2003\)](#) has analysed the role of trade liberalisation and of machinery imports on Turkish firms’ innovation probability, capturing both product and process innovation for the period 1989-1993. He finds a positive correlation between imported machinery and the firm innovation propensity, without dissecting any causal relationship, though.

leading results and policy implications from empirical studies.

The work is structured as follows: section 2 presents the data sources and some descriptive statistics on the outcome variables of our study; section 3 discusses our empirical strategy, results and some robustness checks, and section 4 concludes.

2 The Data

2.1 The Sources and Sample

We make use of three different data sources to build up our estimation sample.

The Structural Business Statistics (SBS) - The Annual Industry and Service Statistics collect information on firm incomes, input costs, employment, investment activity, the primary 4 digit NACE (rev 1.1) sector of activity and the region of location over the period 2003-2008. These data cover the whole population of firms with more than 20 employees and a representative sample of firms with less than 20 employees. The economic activities that are covered in the survey are the ones in the NACE sections from C to K, and from M to O.

The Foreign Trade Statistics (FTS) - Foreign trade flows at firm level provided by TurkStat are sourced from custom declarations and are available for the 2002-2009 time span. The import and export flows are collected for the universe of the importers and exporters of goods at 12-digit Gümrük Tarife İstatistik Pozisyonu (GTIP) classification: the first 8 digits correspond to Combined Nomenclature (CN) classification, and the last 4 digits are national. Additionally, the information on the origin/destination countries of trade flows is available.

The Annual Industrial Product Statistics (AIPS) - The TurkStat Annual Industrial Product Statistics contain information on the type and number of produced goods, their volume and value of production together with the total quantity and value of total sales from goods produced within the reference year or preceding years. Product data are available for the years 2005-2009 and are collected at 10-digit PRODTR level, a national product classification with the first 8 digits corresponding to PRODCOM classification. The adopted PRODTR classification is the 2006 one and, thus, it does not require any harmonisation procedure across years. The production data are available for

firms with more than 20 persons employed and whose primary or secondary activity is in either C section (Mining & Quarrying) or D section (Manufacturing) of NACE Rev 1.1. This database allows us to compute the firm product scope and identify the firm introduction of new products. Also, we make use of this database to detect the export flows of goods that the firm indeed produces. See the Appendix A for a more detailed description of the merge between export data and production data at product-firm level.

Sample - To proceed in the exploration of the causal effect of imports and exports on the firm product scope we restrict our analysis to firms in the manufacturing sector only. We firstly merge the SBS and FTS databases by means of the common firm identifying code, thus gathering information on trade by product for all the firms included in the SBS. Secondly, we match the resulting dataset with the Annual Industrial Product Statistics. We have limited our analysis to the manufacturing firms with more than 20 employees, since just data for a yearly rotating sample of smaller firms are available in SBS. Also, we focus on the 2005-2009 period because this is the period for which production data are available.

Finally, in order to identify produced exports we matched foreign trade data and production data at product level exploiting the correspondence table between GTIP and PROTR, provided by TurkStat. See the Appendix A for details on the matching between firm foreign trade and production data at product level.

2.2 Definition of Treatments and Outcomes

Our empirical strategy rests on propensity score matching (PSM) techniques which are based on the following treatments definition: starting to import only, starting to export only, starting to both export and import (or two-way starting). Then, we define an export (import/two-way) starter the firm that exports (imports/both exports and imports) in t and did not do it in the previous year, i.e. $t - 1$, thus following the existing empirical contributions on the topic (Damijan, Kostevc, and Polanec, 2010; Hahn and Park, 2011). According to this definition and to the combination of PSM with the difference-in-differences estimator, DID, we end up with three different waves - years 2007, 2008 and 2009 - of import, export and two-way starters.

In the following analysis we define a good as a 10 digit product, an example of which is displayed in Table B.1 in the Appendix.⁸ We consider as *new prod-*

⁸According to this product definition, multi-product firms account for 40% of our sample and this share is stable regardless of the detail - 10, 8 or 6 digit codes - of the product defini-

ucts those goods that a firm produces in t and did not produce in $t - 1$ ⁹. The use of a high detailed product classification is important in order to capture the extent of firm product innovations that, in an emergent context especially, may also stem from small changes of the existing product lines.

Our focus is on the search for the causal nexus between the firm trade, its product range and its ability to innovate. In this respect, an increase in the number of products the firm produces implies the introduction of new 10 digit products. Nevertheless, even absent any increase in the product scope, innovation may occur through the substitution of new for old products. Then, we will explore the effect of starting to export and import on the following outcomes:

- **Product Scope**

- N denoting the firm product scope, measured as the number of 10 digit products produced by the firm;
- Pr_{grow} representing a dummy variable equal to 1 if the firm increases its product scope, 0 otherwise.

- **Product Innovation**

- N_{new} denoting the firm new products, measured as the number of products introduced in t and not produced in $t-1$;
- Pr_{new} representing a dummy variable equal to 1 if the firm introduces a new product, 0 otherwise.

The first two variables deliver us the effects on the product scope, while the latter two allow us to capture the extent of product innovation.

The left side of Table 1 shows the time evolution of our outcomes. The firm average number of produced goods is slightly above 2 and about 10-12% of firms yearly expands their product scope. The average number of new products is rather low and corresponds to less than one fifth of the average product scope, while 17-22% of firms are product innovators. The difference between the probability to expand the product range, Pr_{grow} , and the probability to introduce a new product, Pr_{new} , discloses that a large fraction of firms changing the product mix are, indeed, replacing some old products. No particular pattern can be detected across years in our outcomes. Mainly, it is interesting

tion, while only 14/16% of firms are multi-sector, i.e. display more than one 2 digit code.

⁹Nevertheless, in the robustness checks we will also use slightly more aggregated product definitions based on 8 digit and 6 digit classifications. Furthermore, we will consider more restrictive notions of newness too, focusing on the firm production of all previous available years and not just on $t - 1$.

to observe that 2009 - when the global crisis has mostly affected the Turkish economy¹⁰ - does not display any peculiarity for our variables of interest. However, the right side of Table 1 shows the shares of firms that are completely substituting their product scope and we can notice that their weight importantly shrinks in 2008 and 2009. This might suggest that, while the global economic turmoils have not affected the average firm innovation rate, radical modifications in the product mix choice have possibly been abandoned and/or postponed. Alternatively, this evidence could hint at the natural evolution of the innovation rate for an economy: a burgeoning product innovation activity in one period may be followed by a stagnation of innovative efforts, due to the reduction in the number of possible innovation opportunities.

Table 1: Evolution of Outcomes, by year

Year	N	Pr_{grow}	N_{new}	Pr_{new}	Replacing Product Scope	
					% of product innovators	% of firms
2007	2.16	11.34	0.42	21.67	24.95	5.41
2008	2.19	10.14	0.32	17.07	19.51	3.33
2009	2.28	12.16	0.34	17.84	13.84	2.47

Source: Our elaborations from Annual Industrial Product Statistics.

Looking at the kind of products the firm introduces in Table 2, it is evident that the great part of new products belongs to the same NACE subsection or 2 digit sector of the products the firm was already producing. However, a lot of new products seem to present some sensitive differences with respect to the previous firm product scope. For example, on average about 75-78% of new products belong to a new 6 digit code, and 43-47% to a new 4 digit code. This table helps us to evaluate the kind of product innovation the firms are involved in. The picture that we can gather implies that new products seldom consist of marginal improvements of the previously produced ones. It follows that Turkish firms do not simply rely on incremental innovations. Nevertheless, we checked the extent of innovation of new products by comparing the latter with existing domestic and imported goods in the firm NUTS-3 region.¹¹ It turned out that new introduced productions only rarely represent innovations also for the market. Furthermore, about 12% of new products belonging

¹⁰According to the original production data collected by TurkStat, the total production value of manufacturing and mining goods has shown a negative growth rate only in 2009 of about -10% (-9.5% when we deflate the values with the production price index for manufacturing). This evolution is also confirmed in export data and national account data for GDP.

¹¹The corresponding statistics are available from the authors upon request.

to a new NACE subsection probably displays a process of firm diversification of production.

Table 2: 10 digit New Products by Code Belonging(%)

Year	Same 8d	Same 6d	Same 5d	Same 4d	Same 3d	Same 2d	Same Subs
2007	6.09	24.74	41.93	57.58	71.78	82.87	88.50
2008	5.66	21.61	37.48	52.48	68.89	81.28	88.04
2009	4.62	21.86	38.94	53.11	68.21	80.06	85.61

Source: Our elaborations from Annual Industrial Product Statistics.
Each column shows the share of new introduced products that belong to the same sector, defined at different levels of the NACE classification, of at least one previously produced firm good. The last column refers to NACE subsections.

We now turn our attention on firms' international activities and their linkages with both product scope and product innovation. Importers represent more than half of our firms, and, whereas overall exporters cover the same percentage, exporters of own products account for the 33% of the sample.

As standard in the literature for the productivity-trade nexus (Wagner, 2007), we regress our outcomes on two dummies capturing the import and export status of the firm, controlling for the firm size - measured by the log of the firm employment - region, sector and time effects. We make use of pooled poisson regressions for N and N_{new} and pooled probit regressions for Pr_{grow} and Pr_{new} . Since our main interest in the empirical analysis will be in the exports of produced goods instead of in the overall exports of all goods, we here focus on a dummy displaying the firm activity of selling abroad some of own produced products¹².

The premia shown in Table 3 reveal that, when alternatively included in the regression, both importing and exporting own produced products are positively related to the firm product scope and the number of new products. Importing is not significant for the probability to increase the product scope and introduce new products. However, when both trade activities are taken into account at the same time, the firm import status stays significantly positive only for the product scope and turns negative for the probability to increase the number of produced goods.

This preliminary investigation seems to suggest the importance to take into account both the firm internationalisation strategies when exploring the effects of trade on firm innovative outcomes. Exports may, indeed, play a more important role for the firm product scope and its innovation than the

¹²The estimation results for the regressions making use of the general export status of the firm are available from the authors upon request. The same goes for OLS estimates which, however do not bear considerable differences compared to the results shown in the text.

one played by imports. However, this analysis does not let us draw any conclusion about the causal nexus that will be the focus of the next section. The displayed impact, indeed, may be driven by the omission of some firm level characteristics positively related to both the firm involvement in export and import markets and firm product scope. Also, a reverse causality may be at work as the expansion of firm range of products and the introduction of new products may actually allow firms to enter foreign markets (Lachenmaier and Wössmann, 2006).

Table 3: Import and Export Premia

		Product Scope					
		N			Pr_{grow}		
x_{status}	0.231*** [0.011]		0.222*** [0.012]	0.237*** [0.022]		0.250*** [0.022]	
m_{status}		0.095*** [0.012]	0.040*** [0.012]		0.002 [0.023]	-0.058** [0.024]	
Const.	0.578*** [0.029]	0.577*** [0.030]	0.585*** [0.030]	-0.810*** [0.054]	-0.834*** [0.054]	-0.823*** [0.054]	
Observations	31,499	31,499	31,499	29,092	29,092	29,092	
Pseudo-R ²				0.051	0.047	0.051	
LL	-55338.7	-55673.8	-55329.4	-9096.45	-9126.84	-9096.25	
Wald Chi ²	8258.645	7261.773	8273.798	938.785	860.888	939.368	
		Product Innovation					
		N_{new}			Pr_{new}		
x_{status}	0.333*** [0.035]		0.322*** [0.036]	0.189*** [0.019]		0.195*** [0.019]	
m_{status}		0.131*** [0.037]	0.056 [0.038]		0.017 [0.020]	-0.028 [0.021]	
Const.	-0.585*** [0.086]	-0.582*** [0.087]	-0.576*** [0.087]	-0.538*** [0.047]	-0.552*** [0.047]	-0.544*** [0.047]	
Observations	29,092	29,092	29,092	29,092	29,092	29,092	
Pseudo-R ²				0.049	0.048	0.049	
LL	-24464.5	-24580.5	-24461.6	-13126.2	-13140.8	-13126	
Wald Chi ²	2,249	2069.319	2276.075	1289.108	1255.779	1289.808	

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. Robust standard errors in brackets are clustered by firm. Size, Region, Sector and Time dummies are included in the regressions but not shown. Estimates for N and N_{new} are from poisson regressions, while estimates for Pr_{grow} and Pr_{new} are from probit regressions.

3 The empirical strategy

The evidence disclosed by the premia displayed in the previous section suggests that the evaluation of the firm international activity may call for a tailored framework that allows to isolate the impact of each different trade strategy.

As the evidence shows (Vogel and Wagner, 2010; Altomonte and Bekes, 2009), two-way traders are not an exception in firm level data and the possibility of only exporting, only importing and exporting and importing at the same time represents an issue that should be considered when designing the assessment of the impact of trade on firm outcomes. To this purpose we allow for multiple options for the trading firm within a Multiple Propensity Score Matching (MPSM) framework (Lechner, 1999, 2002). In other words, to assess the impact of trade on product innovation, we consider that firm may undergo several treatments at the same time, and importing and exporting may also represent mutually exclusive strategies. If we indicate with m and x respectively the import and export entry, we have four mutually exclusive states: (nm, nx) is the no treatment case, i.e. never importing and never exporting; (m, nx) start importing only; (nm, x) start exporting only; (m, x) start both importing and exporting. Then, we point at the calculation of a full set of Average Treatment effects on the Treated (ATT) for each treatment:

$$\gamma_{a,b}^{MPSM} = E(Y_{post}^a | S = a) - E(Y_{post}^b | S = a) \quad (1)$$

with $a, b = (nm, nx), (m, nx), (nm, x), (m, x)$

where Y_{post} is the outcome after the treatment and S represents the status of the firm in terms of the two treatments, a and b . The parameter in 1 denotes the expected (average) effect of treatment a relative to treatment b for a participant drawn randomly from the firms undergoing the treatment a .

As $E(Y_{post}^b | S = a)$ is not actually observable, the missing counterfactual situation is proxied by the outcome after the treatment of the matched controls, selected from the population of firms in the comparative status b . Each participant receives just one treatment and the remaining ones all constitute possible counterfactuals.

Thus, we compute, for each variable of interest, one ATT effect for each of the following pairs¹³:

¹³Theoretically, it would be possible to analyse a larger set of treatment combinations, for example $(nm, x)/(m, x)$ where the control group consists of Two-Way Traders. However, this would lead us to select the matched controls in a very small sample and to use the same control units several times since the number of treated is sensitively larger than the number

- $(nm, x)/(nm, nx)$ - Export Starters/Never Traders;
- $(m, nx)/(nm, nx)$ - Import Starters/Never Traders;
- $(m, x)/(nm, nx)$ - Two-Way Starters/Never Traders;
- $(m, x)/(nm, x)$ - Two-Way Starters/Export Starters;
- $(m, x)/(m, nx)$ - Two-Way Starters/Import Starters;
- $(m, nx)/(nm, x)$ - Import Starters/Export Starters;

where the first group of firms represents the treated one, while the second group builds up the set of control firms, selected on the basis of the propensity scores estimated via a multinomial logit regression of the four possible states.

To account for the possibility that the selection into the treatment rests on time invariant unobservable characteristics that are not captured by the matching procedure we combine the latter with the Difference-in-Differences (DID) estimator (Blundell and Costa Dias, 2000, 2002):

$$\gamma_{a,b}^{MPSM-DID} = [E(Y_{post}^a | S = a) - E(Y_{pre}^a | S = a)] - [E(Y_{post}^b | S = a) - E(Y_{pre}^b | S = a)] \quad (2)$$

where Y_{pre} denotes the outcome before the treatment.

Due to the short panel data at our disposal, in the computation of these effects we focus on the year of the firm entry in foreign markets, t , and one year after the entry, $t + 1$.

Compared to the SPSM binary treatment case, that has usually been adopted in the empirical assessment of importing and exporting, the advantage of the MPSM approach rests on the possibility to isolate the impact of each trade strategy from any other and to evaluate their joint adoption, thus revealing the existence of potential effects of complementarity. As a matter of fact, in the binary treatment case status a basically corresponds to either export or import starting and status b corresponds to either never exporting or never importing. Thus, for each variable of interest the ATT effect is calculated, for exporting, on the pair

- $(x)/(nx)$ - Export Starters/Never Exporters;

and, for importing, on the pair

of untreated. It would follow a bad quality of the matching strategy, thus we have preferred to ignore these cases. Also, it would be possible to analyse the consequences in terms of innovation outcomes to enter the export market only for import starters. Therefore the latter represents the specular case of the $(m, nx)/(nm, x)$ comparison and we neglected it.

- $(m)/(nm)$ - Import Starters/Never Importing;

The main difference between the control group (nx) (or (nm)) in SPSM and the control group (nm, nx) in MPSM is that firms belonging to the former group may be starting importing (exporting) at the same time or may be also already involved in the import (export) activity. The latter occurrence is usually accounted for in the empirical studies by means of the inclusion of the past import (export) experience in the empirical model for the probability to start to export (import) from which the propensity scores for the selection of control group are recovered. Nevertheless, SPSM leaves aside the possibility to account for the fact that firms defined as export starters and never exporters in t may actually start to import at the same time and the same goes for the definition of the import treatment.

To assess the performance of MPSM with respect to SPSM, however, we will show the ATT results from both strategies. Thus, on one hand, we specify a probit model for the probability to export (import) entry to recover the propensity scores for the SPSM and, on the other hand, a multinomial logit model for the start of an internationalisation strategy to recover the propensity scores for the MPSM. In both cases we include the first lag of the following variables as regressors: the log of employment, l , the log of output, y , the log of labour productivity, lp , a dummy for multiplant firms, $multi$, the log of the firm average wage, w , and a complete set of two digit sector, year and regional dummies. In the probit for export we add a dummy for the previous firm importing activity and in the probit for import we add a dummy for the previous firm export activity. Then, we are able to select never exporters (importers) that in the pre-entry period do not present a significant difference in the import (export) status with respect to future exporters (importers). Using the estimated propensity scores from the estimations, we then apply the “Nearest Neighbour” (NN) matching on the “common support”, that consists of matching a starter with the single control¹⁴ having the most similar propensity score. The matching is implemented cross-section by cross-section, thus that each treated is compared with a control unit in the same year.

In the next section we present the findings from both SPMS and MPSM strategies that are organized as follows: for each comparison group under analysis, we first show the ATT effects - distinguished between effects on product scope and product innovation - and the corresponding analytical standard errors (Lechner, 2001), Ase , and bootstrapped standard errors based on 250 repetitions (Caliendo and Kopeinig, 2008), Bse ; we then report the number of treated units and the number of matched control units for both t and

¹⁴Also, the matching is applied “with replacement”: the same control firm may be used as a match more than once.

$t + 1$.

3.1 SPSM

Before investigating the effects of importing only, exporting only and two-way trading as mutually exclusive treatments in the MPSM framework, we discuss the findings from the SPSM setting. To assess the quality of the matching in Table B.2 we show the results from the probit estimations of the export and import entry used - indicated as x and m , respectively - for the computation of the propensity scores in the selection of the control units. As expected, the firm level characteristics and the Pseudo- R^2 turn non significant after the matching, thus implying that treated units and their matched controls have the same probability to start trading. Also, the upper panel of Table B.3 in the Appendix shows that by means of the NN matching we are able to match the quasi totality of our treated firms and it emerges, indeed, that our matching strategy allows us to remove the differences in observable characteristics, with a reduction in the median standardised bias (Rosenbaum and Rubin, 1985) assessing the distance in marginal distributions of the pre-treatment variables, of at least 80%¹⁵. Finally, figure B.1 shows that the distribution of the propensity score for matched controls overlaps the one of treated firms after the matching procedure both for exporting and importing. Once this evidence has confirmed the general validity of the matching for the two investigated treatments, we proceed to analyse the ATT for the variables presented above and their respective DID ATT, that are denoted by the prefix *DID* before the variable names.

Table 4 delivers us a clearcut message: import activity has no effect on firm product scope at all and a mild impact on product innovation. Purchasing foreign inputs only slightly helps firms to introduce new goods, even if this effect turns to be non significant for DID parameters. On the contrary, it is the firm export of own products to strongly affect firm product mix and its innovative performance. The entry in the export market boosts both the expansion of the product scope and the introduction of new products. These significant effects, concerning both the entry year and one year following the entry, are sizable: exporters of own products have a higher probability to increase the number of products and to produce new products of 13% and 22% respectively. These premia drop to 12% and 7.5% at time $t + 1$. The probability of

¹⁵The t-tests for the differences in means of the explanatory variables used in the probit before and after matching are available from the authors upon request. However, in general, while before the matching there exist important differences between the treated and untreated firms in most of pre-treatment covariates, after the matching any difference turns to be non significant.

starting to expand the product scope and to become a product innovator (as captured by the effect on $DID Pr_{grow}$ and $DID Pr_{new}$ ¹⁶) is 15.7% (5.1%) and 20.6% (6.2%) higher for export starters than never exporters at time t ($t+1$), respectively. Also, starting to sell own products abroad increases the product scope by 20%. The significance of the estimated treatment effects is, in general, confirmed when we use bootstrapped standard errors based on 250 repetitions.

When we have tried to extend the export status definition to include also firms selling goods that they do not produce, the impact of exporting turned sensitively downsized.¹⁷ This reveals that it is mainly the export of own produced products that leads to a significant expansion in the firm product scope and also strongly boosts the renewal of the product range. As a matter of fact, it is likely that firms selling their products abroad more strictly interact with their foreign customers, they may be encouraged to change and/or expand their product mix in order to meet their requests for different, more technologically advanced and higher quality products. On the contrary, even if the selling activity of trading goods abroad exposes the firm to new technologies and new business practices, the latter may not be completely exploited by the firm and directly translated into the ability to produce new goods, as no direct link exists between the firm sales and its production.

Summing up, findings from the SPSM and SPSM-DID support a significant impact on the firm introduction of new products and on the expansion of product scope for exporting while the beneficial effects of imports, displayed in [Goldberg, Khandelwal, Pavcnik, and Topalova \(2010\)](#) for India, do not seem to be relevant for Turkish firms.

3.2 MPSM

Turning to the adoption of the MPSM technique, Table B.4 in the Appendix shows the results from the multinomial logit model estimation. It is worth to stress that our sample is now made up of all those firms that neither export nor import in $t - 1$, as both treatments are taken into account. As a consequence, we end up with a smaller sample compared to the one used in the binary treatment case above. Since the previous analysis has confirmed that exporting own products is the driver of the export effect on the firm product

¹⁶It is worth to highlight that $DID Pr_{grow}$ ($DID Pr_{new}$) is a dummy equal one if the firm has increased its product scope (introduced new products) after the treatment, but she did not increase its product scope (introduce new products) in the year before the treatment; in all other cases the dummy assumes value zero.

¹⁷Results are not shown for the sake of brevity, but are available from the author upon request.

Table 4: SPSM - ATT effects

(m)/(nm)

Product scope	DID N		Pr_{grow}		DID Pr_{grow}			
	t	t+1	t	t+1	t	t+1	t	t+1
Ase	0.009	0.006	0.012	0.023	0	0.008		
Bse	[0.016]	[0.023]	[0.014]	[0.015]	[0.013]	[0.014]		
	[0.016]	[0.025]	[0.014]	[0.019]	[0.013]	[0.016]		

Product Innovation	N_{new}		DID N_{new}		Pr_{new}		DID Pr_{new}	
	t	t+1	t	t+1	t	t+1	t	t+1
Ase	0.077	0.125	0.006	0.026	0.000	0.030	-0.015	0.009
Bse	[0.043]*	[0.044]***	[0.023]	[0.027]	[0.017]	[0.018]*	[0.014]	[0.014]
	[0.044]*	[0.059]**	[0.026]	[0.031]	[0.020]	[0.023]	[0.015]	[0.017]

Number of Starters t (t+1): 2,068 (1,271)
Number of Matched Controls t (t+1): 1,283 (807)

(x)/(mx)

Product Scope	DID N		Pr_{grow}		DID Pr_{grow}			
	t	t+1	t	t+1	t	t+1	t	t+1
Ase	0.132	0.116	0.135	0.050	0.127	0.036		
Bse	[0.013]***	[0.018]***	[0.011]***	[0.012]***	[0.011]***	[0.011]***		
	[0.014]***	[0.021]***	[0.013]***	[0.014]***	[0.012]***	[0.013]***		

Product Innovation	N_{new}		DID N_{new}		Pr_{new}		DID Pr_{new}	
	t	t+1	t	t+1	t	t+1	t	t+1
Ase	0.483	0.166	0.202	0.041	0.219	0.075	0.156	0.048
Bse	[0.041]***	[0.037]***	[0.019]***	[0.022]*	[0.013]***	[0.014]***	[0.011]***	[0.012]***
	[0.048]***	[0.045]***	[0.021]***	[0.027]	[0.017]***	[0.017]***	[0.012]***	[0.012]***

Number of Starters t (t+1): 2,361 (1,406)
Number of Matched Controls t (t+1): 2,000 (1,218)

*, ** and *** indicate the significance at 10, 5 and 1%.

(m) and (x) represent the two treatment of starting to import and starting to export own produced goods.

Both Analytical, Ase, and bootstrapped, Bse, (with 250 draws) standard errors are reported.

The number of treated units and matched controls, concerning both period t and t+1, are shown. The reduction in the number of firms at time t+1 may be due to the exit of some of them from our sample, to some missing values and to the lack of time t+1 for the 2009 wave of starters and their relative control units.

scope, we restrict our MPSM investigation to the role of exporting produced goods and importing¹⁸. The bottom panel of Table B.3 shows some tests for the quality of the matching. Although the quality of the matching is slightly worsened, compared to the binary treatment, due to the smaller sample, we detect, however, a satisfactory matching for all of our treated groups. This is confirmed by the kernel density of the estimated propensity scores for treated and untreated units shown in figure B.2 in the Appendix: after the matching the scores of the treated and of the matched controls overlap in all of the six cases with a slightly worse result for the Import-Starters/Export-Starters comparison. Also, we obtain a good drop share in the median standardised bias for all investigated comparisons. Finally, T-tests for the difference in means of all covariates, that are not shown here for the sake of brevity but available upon request, support, in general, a good quality matching.

Table 5 shows the ATT results for the NN MPSM. The set of estimations discloses the primary importance of the export activity. Starting to export has a strong and direct impact on both the product scope and the product innovation. ATT effects are, indeed, positive and significant for all of our variables of interest when we compare Export Starters, (nm,x) , with Domestic Firms, (nm,nx) . Only at time $t+1$ most of the effects lose their significance, but this may be due to the restricted sample. It emerges, especially, that the export activity of own produced goods increases the probability to expand the product scope and to introduce new goods of about 6% (1.9%) and 12.3% (7.1%) at time t ($t+1$). The effects on the probability to start expanding the range of products ($DID Pr_{grow}$) and to become a product innovator ($DID Pr_{new}$) are equal to 8.1% and 11% in t . Concerning the magnitude of the DID effect on the number of produced products, we find an increase of 31.8% in t . As far as imports are concerned, no significant effect emerges from our MPSM estimates. Firms entering the export and import market at the same time, instead, are more likely to both produce new goods and become innovators. As these ATT effects are higher than the premia of new exporters against never traders, discussed just above, it is evident that there exists some complementarity between export and import activities. With respect to the possibility of entering the export market only, a domestic firm that starts to both import and export will benefit from a higher innovation rate and a larger product scope.

Comparing the MPSM with the SPSM strategy, it turns out that the effects of one-way trading is downsized and this, possibly, follows from the neglecting of the joint adoption of both importing and exporting in the SPSM–ATT.

¹⁸The MPSM results taking into account the import activity and the general export status, based on the overall foreign trade flows, of the firms are available from the authors upon request.

The analysis of the second part of Table 5 reveals a clear message: starting exporting could stimulate innovation in the importing firm that became two-way starter. While, adding the import activity would not improve sensitively the innovation activity of the exporting firms even if these mild effects may be driven by the small sample we investigate. Finally, moving from being an export starter to being an import starter sensitively and significantly reduces the firm innovation propensity and its product scope, again confirming that only exporting is rewarding for the firm in terms of innovative outcomes.

Apart from the analysed outcomes, we have extended our investigation to further variables capturing different dimensions of product innovation: the share of new products over total firm product scope and the production share from new products in order to assess the importance of the firm innovative efforts for its production activity, and a dummy capturing the introduction of new products with a higher unit value than the old ones to gather some insights on the quality level of new products with respect to the existing ones (Fernandes and Paunov, 2010; Verhoogen and Kugler, 2012). Both SPSM and MPSM results emphasize the importance of export activity in enhancing the weight of new introduced products in the firm activity, while starting to import, if anything, reinforces the positive effects of export entry. The relative price of new goods seems not to be importantly affected by firm level trade in our data, even if the investigation of the trade impact on quality upgrading would deserve further research. These results are not shown for brevity, but they are available from the authors upon request.

From our findings product innovations mostly appear to stem from the relationship with foreign customers and this effect is enhanced when the firm also sources part of its inputs abroad. On the contrary, the use of foreign intermediates alone does not spur the firm innovative outcomes. This hints at foreign buyers representing a transmission channel for new production techniques and new technology that together with imported inputs may turn into new products. Also, imported inputs may be purchased by exporters to complement domestic inputs in order to produce goods that are able to meet the requests and tastes of foreign markets. In this direction, one of the possible interpretations relies on the central role of Turkey in the global supply chains. As a matter of fact, it is likely that the export activity of manufacturing firms is intimately related to imported inputs resulting from offshoring practices of foreign buyers in advanced countries. In this respect, offshored productions turn into new products for the Turkish firm which strongly depends on foreign inputs to achieve otherwise unattainable technology and quality levels. Then, compared to pure exporters, the gains from trade in terms of new product lines may be rather amplified.

Table 5: MPSM - ATT effects

Product Scope	DID N_{new}			DID Pr_{Growth}			DID Pr_{New}			(m, nx)/(nm, nx)		
	t	t+1	t	t	t+1	t	t	t+1	t	t+1	t	t+1
Asc	0.094 [0.028]***	0.077 [0.043]*	0.06 [0.027]**	0.019 [0.029]	0.081 [0.025]***	0.026 [0.029]	0.003 [0.015]	0.011 [0.024]	0.019 [0.014]	0.006 [0.018]	0.019 [0.013]	0.005 [0.017]
Bsc			0.032* [0.032]*		0.042 [0.030]***	0.035 [0.035]		0.025 [0.025]		0.020 [0.020]	0.015 [0.015]	0.019 [0.019]
Product Innovation												
Asc	0.318 [0.075]***	0.056 [0.077]	0.133 [0.042]**	0.041 [0.050]	0.123 [0.031]**	0.071 [0.035]**	0.013 [0.043]	0.096 [0.054]*	-0.007 [0.024]	-0.009 [0.030]	0.014 [0.018]	0.004 [0.021]
Bsc			0.053** [0.053]**	0.061 [0.061]	0.037*** [0.037]***	0.048 [0.048]		0.063 [0.063]		0.023 [0.023]	0.021 [0.021]	0.016 [0.016]
Number of Starters t (t+1): 481 (266)												
Number of Matched Controls t (t+1): 433 (242)												
	Number of Starters t (t+1): 1,293 (809)											
	Number of Matched Controls t (t+1): 920 (583)											
Product Scope	DID N_{new}			DID Pr_{Growth}			DID Pr_{New}			(m, nx)/(nm, x)		
Asc	0.147 [0.051]***	0.154 [0.063]**	0.153 [0.043]**	0.08 [0.042]*	0.153 [0.037]**	0.063 [0.042]	-0.088 [0.035]**	-0.015 [0.052]	-0.137 [0.031]**	-0.002 [0.031]**	-0.134 [0.030]**	-0.017 [0.033]
Bsc			0.050*** [0.050]***	0.056 [0.056]	0.044*** [0.044]***	0.049 [0.049]		0.0522 [0.0522]		0.035 [0.035]	0.030*** [0.030]**	0.033 [0.033]
Product Innovation												
Asc	0.512 [0.166]***	0.161 [0.123]	0.218 [0.069]**	0.029 [0.081]	0.271 [0.049]**	0.062 [0.052]	-0.512 [0.102]***	-0.145 [0.080]	-0.145 [0.051]**	0.061 [0.060]	-0.236 [0.036]**	-0.125 [0.039]**
Bsc			0.076*** [0.076]**	0.093 [0.093]	0.055*** [0.055]**	0.061 [0.061]		0.010 [0.010]		0.064 [0.064]	0.037*** [0.037]**	0.047*** [0.047]**
Number of Starters t (t+1): 170 (112)												
Number of Matched Controls t (t+1): 161 (106)												
	Number of Starters t (t+1): 1,244 (640)											
	Number of Matched Controls t (t+1): 365 (193)											
Product Scope	DID N_{new}			DID Pr_{Growth}			DID Pr_{New}			(m, nx)/(nm, nx)		
Asc	0.116 [0.063]*	0.149 [0.090]*	0.103 [0.052]**	0.01 [0.054]	0.067 [0.049]	0.038 [0.053]	0.102 [0.049]**	0.134 [0.059]**	0.160 [0.042]**	0.035 [0.046]	0.112 [0.039]**	0.026 [0.045]
Bsc			0.070 [0.070]	0.065 [0.065]	0.065 [0.065]	0.059 [0.059]		0.074* [0.074]*		0.057 [0.057]	0.043*** [0.043]**	0.053 [0.053]
Product Innovation												
Asc	0.345 [0.178]*	-0.048 [0.151]	0.139 [0.088]	-0.045 [0.100]	0.079 [0.063]	-0.086 [0.069]	0.562 [0.156]***	0.132 [0.119]	0.2 [0.065]**	-0.03 [0.077]	0.254 [0.050]**	-0.009 [0.056]
Bsc		0.193 [0.193]	0.111 [0.111]	0.115 [0.115]	0.072 [0.072]	0.081 [0.081]		0.214 [0.214]		0.101 [0.101]	0.058*** [0.058]**	0.069 [0.069]
Number of Starters t (t+1): 165 (105)												
Number of Matched Controls t (t+1): 123 (76)												
	Number of Starters t (t+1): 169 (114)											
	Number of Matched Controls t (t+1): 156 (107)											

*, **, and *** indicate the significance at 10, 5 and 1%. Both Analytical, Asc, and bootstrapped, Bsc, (with 250 draws) standard errors are reported. The number of treated units and matched controls, concerning both period t and t+1, are shown. The reduction in the number of firms at time t+1 may be due to the exit of some of them from our sample, to some missing values and to the lack of time t+1 for the 2009 wave of starters and their relative control units.

Finally, much of the action occurs between $t - 1$ and t , i.e the same year the firm enters the foreign market. This may reveal that firms get prepared to export and product innovation may actually be an anticipated effect of exporting (Van Beveren and Vandebussche (2010)). Our findings are corroborated by the recent evidence on the opposite nexus running from innovation to exporting in Turkey which shows that manufacturing firms' export entry is not enhanced by product innovation (Lo Turco and Maggioni, 2012a). Nevertheless, even if the effects in $t + 1$ for MPSM are mild and barely significant, we can not exclude that the possible learning process, at work after the export entry, is not properly captured by the small size of our sample in $t + 1$. As a matter of fact, when a larger sample is available for SPSM significant export effects are found in $t + 1$.

3.3 Robustness checks

In order to test the robustness of our analysis we have implemented a number of sensitivity tests covering different dimensions. The results of the main checks are displayed in Tables B.5 and B.6 for product scope and product innovation, respectively.

- **Alternative definition of new products**

In the main analysis we have defined a new product as the one produced at time t but not produced at time $t-1$. As robustness check we have also used a more "stringent" definition of product innovation: a good produced at time t but not produced in all the previous years for which we can observe firm production data.

- **Exclusion of firms from STS**

A potential distortion may be driven by the data collection. From 2006 TurkStat has started to use the data collected in the Short Term Business Statistics¹⁹ (STS) for the firms included in this database. However, for these firms production data in 2005 come from the Annual Industry Products Survey as for the remaining sample of firms. There may be some discrepancies and frictions between the two different surveys and this is partially shown in the probability of product innovation in 2006 that is found to be 37% for the total sample, but it drops to 30% when we exclude the firms in the STS statistics²⁰. Thus, we have tried to exclude

¹⁹These data are collected by means of the Monthly Industrial Production Survey.

²⁰However, due to the larger size of firms included in STS, it could be the case that their higher propensity to innovate is not driven by the change of data source but it could capture a real better performance.

from the SPSM and MPSM strategies all firms for which production data are collected in the Short Term Business Statistics.

- **Alternative Matching Algorithm**

We adopt the Kernel matching procedure to check if our findings are robust to a change in the matching algorithm for the control group selection. Our insights are totally unchanged.

- **Alternative definition of produced exports**

We have defined the exporters of produced goods using alternative correspondence tables between produced goods and traded goods. Especially, instead to implement the matching on 10 digit level produced products, we have collapsed them to 6 digit product level (CPA) and 4 digit product level (NACE). Also, we have used the CN/CPA and HS/CPA correspondence (that also collapses the traded goods from the 12 digit classification to the 8 digit CN or 6 digit HS classification).

- **Alternative computation of standard errors**

The validity of the bootstrapping in NN matching has been discussed by [Abadie and Imbens \(2008\)](#) who claim that only sub-sampling standard errors provide unbiased estimates, while bootstrapped standard errors would be biased. Thus, we have also computed for our baseline results the sub-sampling based standard errors, relying on sub-samples representing 70% of the original sample size and always with 250 repetitions.

Finally, the following checks have also been accomplished, but they are not shown here for brevity.

- **Alternative probit and multinomial logit specification**

We have tried to use different probit and multinomial logit specifications in the SPSM and MPSM implementation, extending the set of covariates included in the explanation of the international status²¹, excluding the firm output (since this variable is not usually included in the explanation of export/import participation) and adding the product scope at time $t-1$. Also, concerning the PSM on exports of produced goods, we have included in the probit regression the lagged firms' probability to export some goods that they were not producing but only trading. Finally, in order to take into account the previous firm dynamics and growth path we have included in the logit and probit specifications

²¹We have added in our estimations two dummies capturing the firm probability to invest in tangible and intangible assets and the probability to be subcontractors and the probability to subcontract a part of their production to third parties.

the productivity growth in $t-1$. The latter check excludes the possibility that the displayed significant effects are, indeed, driven by a general process of expansion and efficiency improvement that firms entering foreign markets were already experiencing in the previous years.

- **Alternative definition of product scope**

Instead to compute the product scope and product innovation using production data at 10 digit level PRODTR classification, we have exploited more aggregated classifications at 8 digit PRODCOM and 6 digit CPA level.

- **Exclusion of 2009**

Although the inclusion of 2009 in our sample could seem questionable, the recent firm level evidence on the impact of the 2009 global crisis on the Turkish manufacturing reveals that firm level characteristics have a homogeneous impact on the number of products and on the product dropping probability before and in the aftermath of the downturn (Lo Turco and Maggioni, 2012b). This is true for exporting and importing, thus we are confident that our findings are not driven by our sample composition and are not affected by a different innovation pattern for trading and non trading firms during the crisis. Nevertheless, we have tried to exclude the year 2009 from the analysis and our results are unaffected, thus confirming our insights from the descriptive statistics in section 2.2.

- **Alternative definition of starters**

We have used a stricter definition of export (import) starters focusing on two years before the entry period, that is as firms exporting (importing) at time t but not exporting (importing) at time $t-1$ and at time $t-2$ ²².

- **Alternative matching procedure**

While in the main analysis the matching procedure is implemented cross-section by cross-section, we have also tried the robustness of our findings to the matching implemented by 2 digit NACE sector and year.

Our results stay substantially unchanged in terms of significance, with some differences in the magnitude according to the implemented check.

²²The relative results are not shown here for the sake of brevity, nevertheless they are available upon request. They confirm our findings when the control group consists of never traders, while some differences emerge when we compare alternative trading activities. The latter findings, however, can be seriously affected by the very small number of observations. As a matter of fact, the more stringent definition of starter has the advantage to reduce the possible incidence of switchers in our treated sample, but it has the important drawback to severely reduce the number of treated - especially two-way traders - and control firms.

4 Conclusion

The availability of original data at firm-product level for Turkey allowed us to investigate in depth the causal impact of trade on firm product scope and innovation. Differently from the previous literature, we consider importing and exporting in a complex multiple treatment framework which allows to assess and dissect their alternative and contemporaneous effect and the impact of the switch from one activity to the other.

Our main findings show that starting to export positively affects the product scope, the introduction of new products and the probability to innovate. We then confirm the prominence of the network a firm is involved in and, especially, of foreign customers in fostering, directly or indirectly, the competitiveness of upstream suppliers. The latter may both learn and benefit from technology and knowledge transfers from their foreign buyers, but may also, irrespective of any direct request, develop new goods and introduce quality improvements and restyling of existing products to meet the preferences and needs of foreign market. Also, an important complementarity exists between starting to import and to export. Purchasing inputs abroad, instead, only reinforces the positive effects of export entry, but when alone it delivers no benefit in terms of innovative outcomes. This set of results proves fruitful in a number of ways.

From a methodological point of view we show that treating the firm internationalisation activities as isolated strategies may drive to misleading insights, as it emerges from the comparison of MPSM and SPSM settings.

Although our evidence on exporting as the leading trade strategy for innovation is confined to Turkish manufacturing, this result echoes most of the previous findings in the literature and, thus, supports the general relevance of such activity for a country growth pattern. Our original contribution is, however, to highlight the importance of the identification of own produced exports that appears as the main driver behind the trade-innovation nexus. This may explain the absence of any export effect in some papers focusing, instead, on the firm overall export activity including also trading goods. It follows the need for a proper definition of exporting and for a more careful investigation of its effects.

Finally, our work demonstrates that the virtuous nexus between the two international activities, documented by the literature ([Kasahara and Lapham, 2012](#)), leads to an enhanced effects of the firm joint export and import involvement on innovation.

Policy makers in emergent markets should then be concerned about easing the firm entry in global supply chains, by targeting policies aimed at pro-

moting home manufacturing abroad and at providing the firm with the necessary financial and technical tools for the overcoming of the national borders.

Two streams of future research spring from our work. On one hand, under data availability, buyer-supplier relationships in international markets should be explored more in depth. On the other hand, it should be assessed to what extent trade-induced innovation provides a spin-off for the country economic growth.

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Appendix

A Merge between Trade and Production Data at the firm-product level

Production data are recorded according to the 10 digit PRODTR 2006 classification across the period 2005-2009, so that they do not require to be harmonised across years. The first 8 digit of PRODTR 2006 correspond to PRODCOM 2006, and, as a consequence, the first 6 digits correspond to CPA codes and the first 4 digits correspond to NACE rev 1.1 codes.

Trade data - available over the period 2002/2009 - are recorded according to the 12 digit GTIP classification, whose first 8 digits correspond to the CN classification. GTIP codes undergo to annual changes and the correspondence table for each couple of consecutive years is available from TurkStat. We first matched trade codes across years. However, from one year to another a change in GTIP codes can be simple, that is a code changes into a new code in the following year or complex, that is one code corresponds to multiple new codes in the following year or multiple codes are aggregated into one new code. So, in order to harmonise GTIP codes across the available years, we used the [Pierce and Schott's 2009](#) procedure. The latter allows for the formation of families of codes by grouping all codes that undergo some changes. So, each GTIP code in each year (GTIPy) was matched with a uniform code, that we labelled *GTIP_unif*. The correspondence between GTIPy and *GTIP_unif* is a correspondence N to 1.

At this point we had all production data harmonised in PRODTR 2006 and all trade data harmonised in the new *GTIP_unif* code.

Now, in order to link trade and production codes we started by using the correspondence between PRODTR 2006 with GTIP 2006 provided by TurkStat.²³ The latter is a N to N correspondence. In order to get to a 1 to 1 correspondence we created a uniform code, *CodeUnique*, to map the GTIP 2006 families into the PRODTR 2006. In other words, the correspondences between PRODTR 2006 and *CodeUnique* and between GTIP2006 and *CodeUnique* are both N to 1. Then, each GTIP 2006 code and PRODTR 2006 code was matched with only one *CodeUnique*.

At this point, once we had the matching between product and trade codes

²³In the matching between trade and production data we had to exclude those GTIP products that are not in the correspondence table between PRODTR and GTIP. In the original correspondence between GTIP2006 and PRODTR2006 there are 259 PRODTR codes over 5,219 codes without any correspondence with GTIP codes. The original correspondence from TurkStat includes 5,219 PRODTR2006 codes and 17,536 GTIP2006 codes. Anyway, not all PRODTR codes are produced by Turkish firms, as well not all GTIP codes are traded by Turkish firms.

for 2006 by means of *CodeUnique*, we exploited the correspondence between *GTIP_unif* and GTIP 2006 trade codes and between the latter and *CodeUnique* to obtain the correspondence between *GTIP_unif* and *CodeUnique*. We ended up with a correspondence N:N, and, again, we group the families of codes, in order to obtain our final code *CodeFinal* (both correspondences *GTIP_unif* to *CodeFinal* and *CodeUnique* to *CodeFinal* are N to 1 correspondences).

Thus, we translated PRODTR 2006 production codes into *CodeUnique* codes and, finally, the latter into *CodeFinal*. At the same time we applied the correspondence *GTIP_unif/CodeFinal* to trade data. In conclusion, we used the *CodeFinal* codes to identify produced good export flows in our elaborations.

Nevertheless, we checked the robustness of our procedure in a number of ways. First, to account for possible recording mistakes at high levels of disaggregation, we collapsed the original PRODTR/GTIP correspondence table in a CPA/GTIP and NACE/GTIP tables and we exploited this two tables following the same procedure as above, to identify produced good export flows at 6 and 4 digit level of aggregation, respectively.

Finally, as PRODTR 2006 first six digits are the CPA 2002 codes, the GTIP first eight digits correspond to the CN and the GTIP first six digits correspond to the HS, we tried to use the correspondence CN/CPA2002 and HS/CPA2002, available from Eurostat Ramon. CN classification undergo some changes every year over the period of our analysis, so we applied again the [Pierce and Schott's 2009](#) procedure in order to harmonise trade data. In opposite, HS classification underwent some changes in product codes only in 2006. Since our data are from 2002, we have created an uniform code through the creation of families of codes exploiting the correspondence between HS2002 and HS2006.

B Additional Tables

Table B.1: Product classification: Example

Codes	Description
18.10.10	Leather clothes
18.10.10.00.01	Leather coat and overcoat
18.10.10.00.02	Suits of leather
18.10.10.00.03	Jackets, blazers and sports jackets of leather
18.10.10.00.04	Trousers and skirts of leather
18.10.10.00.05	Other clothes of leather
18.21.11	Men's ensembles, jackets and blazers, industrial and occupational
18.21.11.20.00	Men's or boys' ensembles, of cotton or man-made fibres, for industrial and occupational wear
18.21.11.30.00	Men's or boys' jackets and blazers, of cotton or man-made fibres, for industrial and occupational wear

Source: PRODTR codes and definitions are from TurkStat.

Table B.2: SPSM-Probit Estimates

	x		m		
	Before Matching (1)	After Matching (2)	Before Matching (3)	After Matching (4)	
y_{t-1}	0.015*** [0.003]	0.007 [0.012]	y_{t-1}	0.094*** [0.006]	-0.028** [0.013]
l_{t-1}	0.000 [0.004]	0.001 [0.015]	l_{t-1}	-0.01 [0.008]	0.034* [0.018]
lp_{t-1}	0.004 [0.004]	0 [0.013]	lp_{t-1}	0.023*** [0.007]	0.013 [0.014]
w_{t-1}	-0.019*** [0.006]	-0.021 [0.021]	w_{t-1}	0 [0.013]	-0.035 [0.026]
$importer_{t-1}$	0.082*** [0.005]	0.005 [0.018]	$exporter_{t-1}$	0.216*** [0.010]	0.026 [0.016]
$multi_{t-1}$	0.016*** [0.005]	-0.012 [0.016]	$multi_{t-1}$	-0.007 [0.008]	-0.027 [0.018]
Region dummies	Yes	Yes	Region dummies	Yes	Yes
Sector Dummies	Yes	Yes	Sector Dummies	Yes	Yes
Obs.	20,195	4,722	Obs.	10,328	4,136
Pseudo-R ²	0.08	0.003	Pseudo-R ₂	0.196	0.006
Wald Chi ²	1161.562	17.164	Wald Chi ₂	2034.046	33.788
Log-lik	-6704.02	-3264.46	Log-lik	-4173.79	-2849.96
Pcorr	88.309		Pcorr	81.652	

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. Robust standard errors are in brackets. Sector, Region and Time dummies are included but not shown.

Table B.3: Balancing Tests

SPSM

	Treated Firms	Control Firms	% Treated Firms Out of Support	Median Bias		% Drop Bias	Pseudo R ²	
				Before	After		Before	After
(x)/(nx)	2,361	2,000	0.00	6.73	1.26	81.28	0.080 (0.000)	0.003 (0.998)
(m)/(nm)	2,068	1,283	0.67	7.29	1.74	76.10	0.196 (0.000)	0.006 (0.620)

MPSM

	Treated Firms	Control Firms	% Treated Firms Out of Support	Median Bias		% Drop Bias
				Before	After	
(nm,x)/(nm,nx)	481	433	0.21	7.10	3.04	57.11
(m,nx)/(nm,nx)	1,293	920	0.15	6.93	1.54	77.76
(m,x)/(nm,nx)	170	161	0.00	12.25	3.93	67.89
(m,nx)/(nm,x)	1,244	365	3.94	10.93	6.41	41.38
(m,x)/(nm,x)	165	123	2.94	8.75	4.81	45.09
(m,x)/(m,nx)	169	156	0.59	6.95	3.96	43.11

The covariate balancing tests for the SPSM and MPSM are shown in the upper and bottom panels respectively. Treated firms are in the common support if their propensity score is lower than the maximum and higher than the minimum score of the control units. In the columns 4 and 5 of the upper panel (bottom) we display the median bias across all the covariates included in the probit (logit) estimation before and after the matching for SPSM (MPSM). In the last two columns of the upper panel we report the Pseudo-R² of the probit run on the sample before the matching and on the matched sample and just below the p-value for the significance of the Pseudo-R² are indicated.

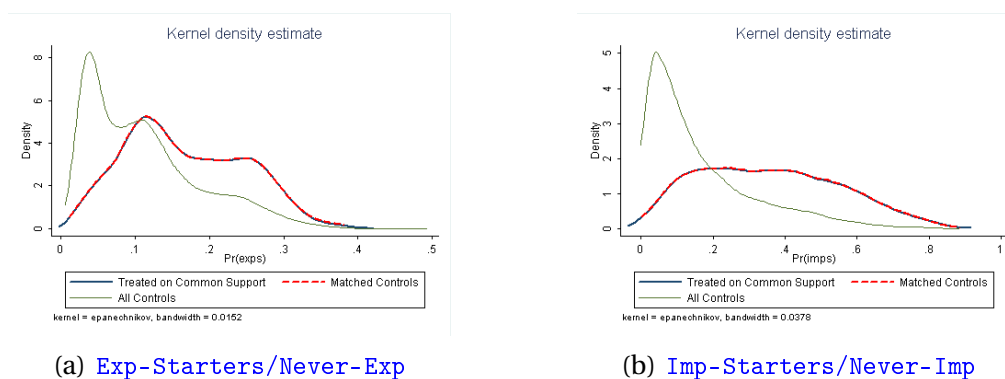
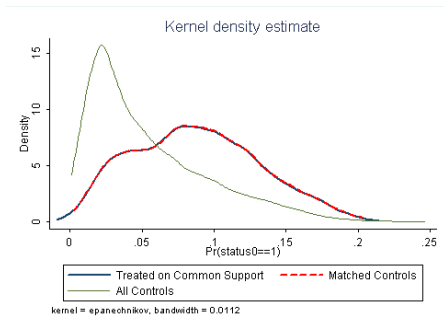
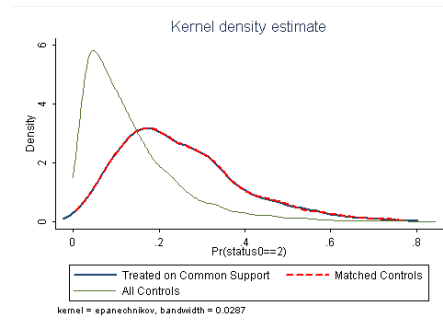


Figure B.1: Kernel Density of Export and Import starting Propensity Scores

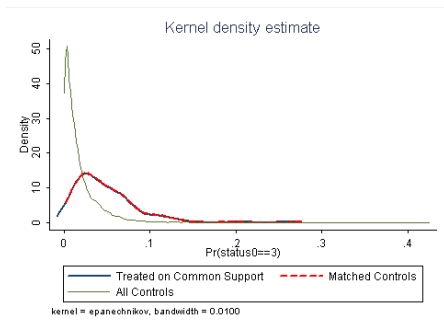
Notes: EXPORT STARTERS/IMPORT STARTERS refer to the firms that export/import in t and did not export/import in $t - 1$. NEVER-EXPORTERS/NEVER-EXPORTERS refer to firms which never export/import during the whole sample time span.



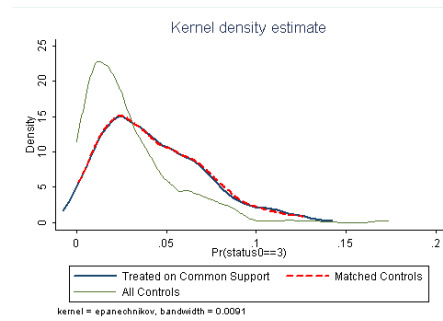
(a) Export-Starters/Never



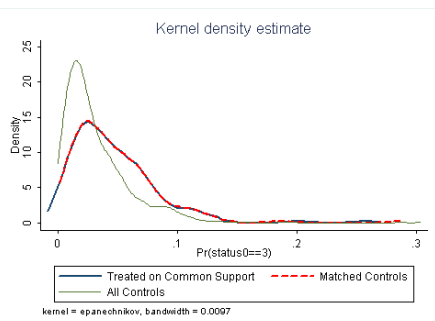
(b) Import-Starters/Never



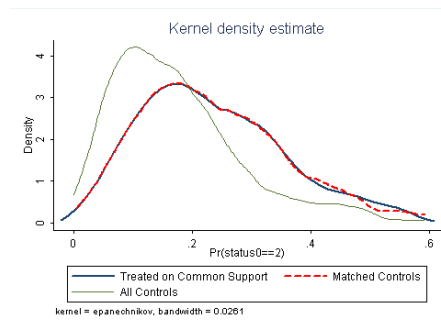
(c) Two-way-Starters/Never



(d) Two-way/Export-Starters



(e) Two-way/Import-Starters



(f) Import/Export-Starters

Figure B.2: Propensity score densities for the treated and matched and unmatched controls

Notes: IMPORT STARTERS/EXPORT STARTERS/TWOWAY STARTERS refer to the firms that import/export/import and export in t and did not import/export/import and export in $t - 1$. NEVER refers to firms which neither export nor import during the whole sample time span.

Table B.4: MPSM-Multinomial Logit Estimates

	(nm,x)	(m,nx)	(m,x)
y_{t-1}	0.385*** [0.075]	0.739*** [0.049]	0.640*** [0.127]
l_{t-1}	-0.055 [0.115]	-0.065 [0.073]	0.132 [0.173]
lp_{t-1}	0.044 [0.092]	0.153*** [0.059]	0.644*** [0.152]
w_{t-1}	-0.608*** [0.186]	-0.158 [0.109]	-0.460* [0.270]
$multi_{t-1}$	0.271** [0.107]	-0.027 [0.076]	0.246 [0.178]
Cons	-4.422*** [1.550]	-13.069*** [0.912]	-16.744*** [2.266]
Region dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sector Dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs.	8,361	8,361	8,361
Pseudo-R ²	0.119	0.119	0.119
Wald Chi ²	1465.854	1465.854	1465.854
Log-lik	-5420.23	-5420.23	-5420.23

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

Robust standard errors are in brackets. Sector, Region and Time dummies are included, but not shown.

Table B.5: Robustness Checks: Product Scope

Alternative Definition of New Products							
Product Scope		$DID N$		Pr_{grow}		$DID Pr_{grow}$	
		t	$t + 1$	t	$t + 1$	t	$t + 1$
SPSM	(x)/(nx)	0.132***	0.116***	0.135***	0.050***	0.127***	0.036***
	(m)/(nm)	0.009	0.006	0.012	0.023	0.000	0.008
MPSM	(nm,x)/(nm,nx)	0.094***	0.077	0.060*	0.019	0.081***	0.026
	(m,nx)/(nm,nx)	0.003	0.011	0.019	0.006	0.019	0.005
	(m,x)/(nm,nx)	0.147***	0.154**	0.153***	0.08	0.153***	0.063
	(m,x)/(nm,x)	0.116	0.149	0.103	0.01	0.067	0.038
	(m,x)/(m,nx)	0.102*	0.134*	0.160***	0.035	0.112***	0.026
	(m,nx)/(nm,x)	-0.088***	-0.015	-0.137***	-0.002	-0.134***	-0.017
Exclusion of firms from STS							
Product Scope		$DID N$		Pr_{grow}		$DID Pr_{grow}$	
		t	$t + 1$	t	$t + 1$	t	$t + 1$
SPSM	(x)/(nx)	0.157***	0.134***	0.173***	0.032	0.165***	0.039**
	(m)/(nm)	0.003	0.010	0.018	0.002	-0.002	-0.006
MPSM	(nm,x)/(nm,nx)	0.136***	0.105*	0.144***	0.01	0.134***	0.019
	(m,nx)/(nm,nx)	0.009	0.031	0.019	0.004	0.021	0.007
	(m,x)/(nm,nx)	0.232***	0.284***	0.206***	0.096	0.145***	0.108
	(m,x)/(nm,x)	0.064	0.234**	0.097	0.076	0.048	0.038
	(m,x)/(m,nx)	0.232***	0.284***	0.206***	0.096	0.145***	0.108
	(m,nx)/(nm,x)	-0.073**	0.054	-0.105***	0.053	-0.109***	0.038
Alternative Matching Algorithm							
Product Scope		$DID N$		Pr_{grow}		$DID Pr_{grow}$	
		t	$t + 1$	t	$t + 1$	t	$t + 1$
SPSM	(x)/(nx)	0.124***	0.106***	0.138***	0.038***	0.130***	0.032***
	(m)/(nm)	0.015	0.016	0.020**	0.002	0.006	-0.009
MPSM	(nm,x)/(nm,nx)	0.143***	0.125***	0.142***	0.041	0.138***	0.033
	(m,nx)/(nm,nx)	-0.006	0.006	-0.006	0.004	-0.002	-0.001
	(m,x)/(nm,nx)	0.142***	0.121**	0.177***	0.037	0.141***	0.036
	(m,x)/(nm,x)	0.049	0.056	0.034	0.000	-0.001	0.006
	(m,x)/(m,nx)	0.144***	0.100**	0.162***	0.031	0.121***	0.029
	(m,nx)/(nm,x)	-0.101***	-0.04864	-0.132***	-0.0341	-0.126***	-0.02805
Alternative definition of produced exports							
Product Scope		$DID N$		Pr_{grow}		$DID Pr_{grow}$	
		t	$t + 1$	t	$t + 1$	t	$t + 1$
SPSM	(x)/(nx)	0.126***	0.114***	0.127***	0.031**	0.117***	0.029**
	(m)/(nm)	-	-	-	-	-	-
MPSM	(nm,x)/(nm,nx)	0.087***	-0.004	0.101***	-0.021	0.084***	-0.018
	(m,nx)/(nm,nx)	-0.008	0.004	-0.019	-0.015	-0.022	-0.028
	(m,x)/(nm,nx)	0.088*	0.096	0.109**	0.034	0.082*	0.051
	(m,x)/(nm,x)	-0.036	-0.011	-0.017	-0.114*	-0.022	-0.081
	(m,x)/(m,nx)	0.112**	0.172**	0.152***	0.068	0.130***	0.068
	(m,nx)/(nm,x)	-0.108***	-0.086*	-0.131***	-0.050	-0.113***	-0.059*
Alternative computation of standard errors							
Product Scope		$DID N$		Pr_{grow}		$DID Pr_{grow}$	
		t	$t + 1$	t	$t + 1$	t	$t + 1$
SPSM	(x)/(nx)	0.132***	0.116***	0.135***	0.050***	0.127***	0.036**
	(m)/(nm)	0.009	0.006	0.012*	0.023	0	0.008
MPSM	(nm,x)/(nm,nx)	0.094***	0.077	0.060*	0.019	0.081***	0.026
	(m,nx)/(nm,nx)	0.003	0.011	0.019	0.006	0.019	0.005
	(m,x)/(nm,nx)	0.147***	0.154*	0.153***	0.08	0.153***	0.063
	(m,x)/(nm,x)	0.116	0.149	0.103	0.01	0.067	0.038
	(m,x)/(m,nx)	0.102	0.134	0.160***	0.035	0.112**	0.026
	(m,nx)/(nm,x)	-0.088**	-0.015	-0.137***	-0.002	-0.134***	-0.017

*, ** and *** indicate the significance at 10, 5 and 1%.

The significance is based on Bootstrapped standard errors (250 draws) with the exception of the last set of estimates for which the significance from Supsample standard errors is reported.

Different Definition of New Products: New Products defined as the ones produced in t and not produced in all the available years.

Alternative Matching Algorithm: kernel matching

Alternative definition of produced exports: SPSM and MPSM implemented making use of the status of exporting own produced goods $EXPORTS_6^P$.

Table B.6: Robustness Checks: Product Innovation

Alternative Definition of New Products									
Product Innovation		N_{new}		$DID N_{new}$		Pr_{new}		$DID Pr_{new}$	
		t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$
SPSM	(x)/(nx)	0.397***	0.144***	0.172***	0.038	0.194***	0.069***	0.147***	0.047***
	(m)/(nm)	0.053	0.106**	0.003	0.030	-0.008	0.032	-0.012	0.015
MPSM	(nm,x)/(nm,nx)	0.204**	0.045	0.089*	0.029	0.091**	0.056	0.098***	0.064*
	(m,nx)/(nm,nx)	-0.008	0.064	-0.015	-0.016	0.001	0.000	-0.008	-0.01
	(m,x)/(nm,nx)	0.447***	0.107	0.179**	0.011	0.224***	0.045	0.182***	0.062
	(m,x)/(nm,x)	0.321	0.029	0.125	-0.021	0.048	-0.067	0.042	0.019
	(m,x)/(m,nx)	0.562***	0.096	0.184**	-0.051	0.243***	0	0.195***	0.026
	(m,nx)/(nm,x)	-0.428***	-0.034	-0.106**	0.100	-0.213***	-0.080*	-0.136***	-0.053
Exclusion of firms from STS									
Product Innovation		N_{new}		$DID N_{new}$		Pr_{new}		$DID Pr_{new}$	
		t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$
SPSM	(x)/(nx)	0.662***	0.177***	0.235***	0.027	0.288***	0.059**	0.194***	0.035
	(m)/(nm)	0.085*	0.136**	0.028	0.041	0.009	0.029	-0.006	-0.002
MPSM	(nm,x)/(nm,nx)	0.444***	0.143	0.169***	0.043	0.194***	0.048	0.151***	0.048
	(m,nx)/(nm,nx)	0.082*	0.115*	0.067**	0.058	0.029	0.005	0.033**	-0.002
	(m,x)/(nm,nx)	0.687***	0.289	0.251**	0.034	0.305***	0.096	0.145**	0.06
	(m,x)/(nm,x)	0.282	0.139	0.076	-0.044	0.089	0.025	-0.008	0.038
	(m,x)/(m,nx)	0.687***	0.289	0.251**	0.034	0.305***	0.096	0.145**	0.06
	(m,nx)/(nm,x)	-0.358***	0.098	-0.130**	0.003	-0.193***	-0.036	-0.153***	-0.034
Alternative Matching Algorithm									
Product Innovation		N_{new}		$DID N_{new}$		Pr_{new}		$DID Pr_{new}$	
		t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$
SPSM	(x)/(nx)	0.508***	0.138***	0.189***	0.025	0.224***	0.059***	0.156***	0.041***
	(m)/(nm)	0.091***	0.086**	0.158	-0.922	0.019	0.006	0.006	-0.008
MPSM	(nm,x)/(nm,nx)	0.481***	0.114*	0.194***	0.026	0.219***	0.103***	0.174***	0.046*
	(m,0)/(nm,nx)	0.008	0.097**	-0.014	-0.005	0.006	0.007	0.000	-0.017
	(m,x)/(nm,nx)	0.566***	0.155	0.226***	-0.005	0.278***	0.049	0.182***	0.036
	(m,x)/(nm,x)	0.165	0.021	0.059	-0.031	0.054	-0.056	0.006	-0.014
	(m,x)/(m,nx)	0.579***	0.074	0.214***	-0.009	0.256***	0.048	0.152***	0.047
	(m,0)/(nm,x)	-0.421***	-0.06154	-0.161***	-0.0291	-0.214***	-0.118***	-0.160***	-0.076***
Alternative definition of produced exports									
Product Innovation		N_{new}		$DID N_{new}$		Pr_{new}		$DID Pr_{new}$	
		t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$
SPSM	(x)/(nx)	0.440***	0.085*	0.174***	0.036	0.195***	0.039**	0.141***	0.039**
	(m)/(nm)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MPSM	(nm,x)/(nm,nx)	0.315***	0	0.088*	-0.078	0.161***	0.018	0.134***	-0.039
	(m,nx)/(nm,nx)	0.016	0.085	-0.029	-0.044	0.002	0.003	-0.019	-0.039*
	(m,x)/(nm,nx)	0.386***	0.026	0.191***	0.046	0.201***	0.034	0.130***	0.051
	(m,x)/(nm,x)	-0.088	-0.285	0.014	-0.117	-0.006	-0.179**	-0.017	-0.016
	(m,x)/(m,nx)	0.451***	0.11	0.190***	0.063	0.250***	0.093	0.185***	0.076
	(m,nx)/(nm,x)	-0.329***	-0.059	-0.153***	-0.136**	-0.171***	-0.105**	-0.131***	-0.094**
Alternative computation of standard errors									
Product Innovation		N_{new}		$DID N_{new}$		Pr_{new}		$DID Pr_{new}$	
		t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$	t	$t+1$
SPSM	(x)/(nx)	0.483***	0.166***	0.202***	0.041	0.219***	0.075***	0.156***	0.048***
	(m)/(nm)	0.077*	0.125***	0.006	0.026	0	0.030*	-0.015	0.009
MPSM	(nm,x)/(nm,nx)	0.318***	0.056	0.133**	0.041	0.123***	0.071	0.110***	0.06
	(m,nx)/(nm,nx)	0.013	0.096	-0.007	-0.009	0.014	0.004	-0.005	-0.012
	(m,x)/(nm,nx)	0.512***	0.161	0.218**	0.029	0.271***	0.062	0.176***	0.071
	(m,x)/(nm,x)	0.345	-0.048	0.139	-0.045	0.079	-0.086	0.036	0.01
	(m,x)/(m,nx)	0.562***	0.132	0.200**	-0.03	0.254***	-0.009	0.172***	0.035
	(m,nx)/(nm,x)	-0.512***	-0.078	-0.145**	0.061	-0.236***	-0.125**	-0.150***	-0.062

*, ** and *** indicate the significance at 10, 5 and 1%.

The significance is based on Bootstrapped standard errors (250 draws) with the exception of the last set of estimates for which the significance from Supsample standard errors is reported.

Different Definition of New Products: New Products defined as the ones produced in t and not produced in all the available years.

Alternative Matching Algorithm: kernel matching

Alternative definition of produced exports: SPSM and MPSM implemented making use of the status of exporting own produced goods $EXPORTS_6^p$.