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The COVID crumbling of tourism in Andalusia: an assessment of economic and environmental consequences

Roberto Roson¹
Camille Van der Vorst²

ABSTRACT

This paper presents a simulation exercise undertaken with a newly available regional general equilibrium model for the Spanish region of Andalusia. The exercise is intended to assess the structural adjustment processes and impacts on the Andalusian economy directly induced by the dramatic fall in tourism expenditure which occurred in the year 2020, due to the prevention measures implemented because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also undertake a preliminary evaluation of the impact on some environmental indicators, such as greenhouse gases emissions and air pollutants. The key insight emerging from our analysis is that the COVID crumbling of tourism demand generates very relevant distributional consequences.

KEYWORDS

Tourism, Andalusia, regional economics, CGE models, COVID-19, economic impact, environmental impact.

JEL CODES

C68, D58, Q51, R13.

1. Introduction and Motivation

Tourism is possibly the sector most negatively affected by the COVID-19 lockdown and prevention measures, but it is also the economic backbone for many regions and countries. Therefore, those economies which are heavily dependent on tourism are also those which are more exposed to the economic impact of the pandemic.

According to OECD (2021) tourism in Spain in 2018 accounted for more than 12% of the national GDP, a share (rising, at that time) which would substantially be larger for a popular tourism destination, such as Andalusia. This figure, however, may mask and underestimate the actual importance of the sector within the economic system. This is because there are many other industries that are significantly supported by the indirect tourism demand. For instance: maintenance and cleaning services, local transport, cultural activities, shops, food, energy, water, etc. Many of these other industries may not be classified as belonging to the tourism sector.

¹ Ca' Foscari University of Venice; Loyola Andalusia University; GREEN Bocconi University Milan. E-mail: roson@unive.it.

² Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven. E-mail: camille.vandervorst@kuleuven.be.

In good times, tourism propels the rest of the economy. In bad times, multiplicative effects turn negative, and the engine gets into full reverse. Because of the interlinkages between industries directly and indirectly related to tourism, an assessment of the systemic consequences of a massive drop in tourism demand, such as that experienced in 2020, needs models and methods fully considering the input-output trade interdependences.

However, traditional input-output analysis would fall short, for two main reasons. First, the demand drop would generate excess capacity and supply in the markets for primary resources. This will cause prices to lower and, in the labor market, additional unemployment. The latter aspect is especially relevant in Spain, and the more so in Andalusia, plagued by high unemployment levels even before COVID-19. Second, shrinking factor income (lower returns, lower employment) would feed back to consumption demand, further amplifying the negative shock.

All these aspects call for a modeling approach based on general equilibrium, as this fully traces the circular flow of income inside the economic system. It is indeed the approach we adopt in the exercise illustrated in this paper, where we present and analyze the results of a numerical simulation, undertaken with a regional computable general equilibrium model (Roson, 2021). Parameters of the model are calibrated based on a social accounting matrix of Andalusia that we estimated (Roson and Van der Vorst, 2020).

The exercise is a classic comparative static one, where an initial (general) equilibrium is perturbed, and a counterfactual equilibrium is generated, in the absence of any explicit time dimension. The perturbation here is the cut in tourism external income inflow, which is exogenous in the model. The results should by no means be interpreted as a realistic measure of impacts, though, but rather as a hypothetical *ceteris paribus* evaluation. Indeed, we are not considering other impacts related to the pandemic in Andalusia or elsewhere. Also, we are not considering non-market adaptation or policy responses, even when they would be semi-automatic (like in the case, e.g., of higher unemployment benefits). Therefore, our aim is highlighting which structural adjustment processes would have been triggered in the regional economy, only because of the direct effect of lower tourism expenditure.

As we shall better see in the following, results are not trivial, nor all possibly expected. Furthermore, because of the level of detail provided by the model and its general equilibrium nature, it is possible to identify potential “winners and losers” into the economic system, even though the exogenous shock we are imposing is clearly a negative one, at least at the aggregate level.

We complement our analysis with an assessment of environmental impacts on some indicators, namely greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants. Our primary aim here is appraising the intuition that a slowdown of economic activities is beneficial to the environment. Although this is broadly confirmed by our results, we nonetheless found some other unanticipated findings.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. After a review of the relevant literature, a section briefly illustrates our main data sources, the model structure, its key characteristics, as well as the way we implemented the simulation exercise. We then turn, on section three, to a presentation of the most relevant economic impact results, along with some decomposition and interpretation analysis. Estimated changes in emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants are presented and commented in section four. A final section then offers some concluding remarks.

2. Related Literature

The COVID-19 pandemic is a relatively recent phenomenon. Because of its huge economic impact, it has attracted the interest of many scholars, willing to provide an assessment of some of its economic consequences (for some early reviews see, e.g., Brodeur et al., 2020, Nicola et al., 2020). Within the broad

range of contributions, using different approaches and perspectives, a predominant role is given to studies based on general equilibrium. This should not come as a surprise, given the systemic nature of the crisis, not confined to a specific sector or region.

However, the analysis is especially complex, because the COVID-19 pandemic is causing multiple and interrelated shocks to the economic systems: disruption of international trade and travel, excess capacity and productivity effects related to lockdown measures, radical changes in consumption patterns, modifications in the level and composition of public expenditure, massive income transfers, boom of on-line services, etc. It would be utopian to conceive a single model, simultaneously encompassing all these dimensions. Therefore, most or all studies available to date are focusing on specific channels of impact, often through adaptation of tested methodologies.

Some papers focus on one or few countries. Nechifor et al. (2020a, 2020b, 2021) identify five impact channels in their analysis for Kenya (labor productivity, demand for exports and tourism, internal trade costs, domestic demand, and remittances). Roson and Costa (2020) analyze the shock related to lockdown measures in Italy and France, which is interpreted as a reduction of productivity. Similarly, Lahcen et al. (2020) simulate a decrease in working time, due to the temporary shutdown of certain industries or work-from-home policies in Belgium. This study also considers a shock on the demand side, distinguishing between essential sectors and other sectors. Aydin and Ari (2020) combine demand and supply shocks, to see whether falling oil prices could partly compensate some of the pandemic effects in Turkey.

Other studies focus a wider regional or global level (Bekkers et al., 2020, Park et al., 2020, Maliszewska et al., 2020). For instance, Maliszewska et al. and the European Commission DG TRADE (2020) analyze the effects on global GDP and trade. A report by OECD (2020) considers value chains, finding that globally integrated economies appear to have proved to be more resilient during the crisis.

A few more studies (Lahcen et al., *ibid.*, Malliet et al., 2020) broaden the scope of analysis to consider, like we do in this paper, some (direct or indirect) environmental consequences of the pandemic. For instance, Lahcen investigate whether post-COVID recovery plans could stimulate economic activity while also improving the environmental performance.

CGE models have been used to examine policies and impacts in some fields, which are directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some notable examples can be found in the health economics literature, where CGE models are sometimes employed to assess the systemic impact of a health crisis on the economy, usually by introducing a shock to labor efficiency or supply. Keogh-Brown et al. (2020) and McKibbin and Fernando (2020) provided early economic assessments of COVID-19 for different regions of the world, considering regional contagion and fatality rates. These papers simulate the health crisis via reduced labor supply, increased production costs and changes in consumption patterns. Similar CGE-based studies have been conducted for other diseases such as HIV/AIDS, H1N1, SARS and Ebola (Arndt and Lewis, 2001, Dixon et al., 2010, Lee and McKibbin, 2012, World Bank, 2014).

CGE-based studies considering the pandemic impact on tourism are, up to know, quite rare. Nonetheless, CGE models have been extensively used to gauge the economic impact of tourism related activities, which in some cases also includes an evaluation of their environmental footprint. For instance, Roson and Sartori (2014) use a CGE model to assess the trade-off between tourism development in the Mediterranean and sustainable water management. Bigano et al. (2008) analyze the climate change impact on sea level rise and tourism.

3. Data and Modeling Strategy

The main data source for the modeling exercise presented in this paper is a Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) for the Spanish region of Andalusia (Rosen and Van der Vorst, 2020). Structural parameters of the general equilibrium model have been calibrated on the SAM data, therefore the design of the CGE model has been influenced by the available information.

A Social Accounting Matrix is an accounting framework, formulated as a matrix, depicting the circulation of income flows among various agents inside an economic system (Pyatt and Round, 1985). It usually takes the form of a square matrix, where each entity is associated with a row (identifying sources of income) and a column (showing expenditure outlets), such that the two vectors correspond to a double-entry bookkeeping balance.

The Andalusian SAM considers three regions (Andalusia, Rest of Spain, Rest of the World), 87 produced goods and services and 84 industries (an industry can produce multiple goods, whereas a good may be produced by different industries), two household categories (residents, non-residents), a public sector and an investment sector. It also considers eight classes of primary factors, where four of them denote categories of labor. The structure of the SAM, which refers to the year 2016, is shown in Figure 1.

	Commodities / A	Commodities / E	Commodities / W	Activities	Prim. Factors	Households	Public Sector	Savings/Inv.	E Rest of Spain	W Rest of World
Commodities / A				Intermediate Dem. A		Internal HH Consumption	PS Int. Cons.	FCF (Inv.) Internal	Export to E	Export to W
Commodities / E				Interm. Dem. Imp. E		Import E HH Cons.	PS Imp. E Cons.	FCF (Inv.) Imp. E		
Commodities / W				Interm. Dem. Imp. W		Import W HH Cons.	PS Imp. W Cons.	FCF (Inv.) Imp. W		
Activities	Production by activities				Loss compensating transfers					
Prim. Factors				Factor income					Inc. Fact. Inc. (E)	Inc. Fact. Inc. (W)
Households					Factor Income to HH		PS net Transfers to HH		E net Transf. to HH	W net Transf. to HH(1)
Public Sector				Production Taxes	Factor Taxes	Consumption taxes			E net Transf. to PS	W net Transf. to PS
Savings/Inv.						Households' Savings	PS net Savings		Trade deficit E	Trade deficit W
E Rest of Spain		Import from Rest of Spain			Spanish (E) Factor Income	And. HH consuming in RoS				
W Rest of World			Import from RoW		Foreign (W) Factor Income	And. HH consuming in RoW				

(1) = in case of non-resident households, this expresses the consumption expenditure

Figure 1. Structure of the 2016 Andalusian SAM

Especially important here is the level and pattern of final consumption for non-residents households, as these broadly correspond to tourists coming from outside Andalusia. The expenditure of tourists is financed by income generated abroad, which enters the regional economy as a kind of transfer.

The general equilibrium model, based on the SAM, takes the form of a large non-linear system of equations, including market balances, budget constraints and accounting identities. The whole list of equation is presented in the Appendix, whereas a more detailed description of the model is available in Rosen (2021).

Parameters are estimated through calibration, meaning that, without changes in exogenous variables and parameters, the model generates an equilibrium where all endogenous variables (e.g., activity levels, trade patterns, income, etc.) correspond to the baseline SAM data. As it is customary in CGE models, functional forms adopted in the model to express the behavioral response of economic agents (to changing relative prices) are based on combinations of Constant Elasticity of Substitution (CES) functions and their variants, like Constant Elasticity of Transformation (CET) and Linear Expenditure System (LES). Since elasticities of substitution or transformation cannot be calibrated, their values were taken from the literature, or from assumptions adopted in similar models, or just plain educated guesses.

Like in all Walrasian general equilibrium models, money does not play any role and the system can only determine relative prices, from where all remaining endogenous variables are derived. To this end, a

numeraire price is chosen, which in this case is the fixed level of external prices. This allows interpreting the domestic price index as a virtual regional exchange rate. Please notice that, unlike in most country-level CGE models, where the (real) exchange rate is endogenous and the trade balance is required to be in equilibrium (usually net of the baseline surplus or deficit), the numeraire choice permits here foreign (non-Andalusian) net savings to vary. We believe that this kind of model closure is better suited for a sub-national model like the one at hand.

There are other assumptions that depart from the typical CGE setting. All primary factors, for instance, are not perfectly mobile. A CET function is used to allocate the factors among the various productive activities, in such a way that more (but not all) factors get employed where their returns are relatively higher. The elasticity of transformation in each CET function could be interpreted as an index of inter-industry factor mobility: the higher the elasticity the higher the mobility and the smaller the compensation gap (or vice versa). Equivalently, when the elasticity is small it means that it is quite difficult to “convert” a factor employed in an industry into a factor employable in another industry. As a limit case, a zero elasticity indicates an industry-specific input. Table 1 shows the elasticity values adopted for the primary resources CET functions.

Table 1. Elasticity of transformation for primary factors

Category	Value
Employees	1.5
Service and shop workers	2
Agriculture and unskilled workers	1.2
Technicians	0.8
Land	0.25
Managers, self-employed	0
Physical capital and infrastructure	0.5
Natural resources	0

The framework accounts for the fact that Andalusian factors may be employed outside the region, whereas not all factors employed in Andalusian industries are owned by regional citizens. However, there is no interregional migration of factors.

Another peculiar assumption is that average salaries for labor factors are endogenously determined through a wage curve, meaning that the model computes variations in employment (or unemployment) by worker category (equation A37 in the Appendix). This model feature is of fundamental importance in a region where unemployment rates are very high. A wage curve is an empirical relationship, justifiable because of the existence of trade unions or efficiency wages, linking wages to unemployment rates. It therefore plays the role of a labor supply curve. The key elasticity parameter (-0.06) has been estimated for Andalusia by Bande et al. (2012) and it is adopted here for all labor categories.

Normally exogenous variables in the model³ include: regional exports, public sector demand, foreign prices, income transfers to/from the public sector and to/from households (comprising non-residents), and endowments of non-labor primary resources. Any of these variables can be shocked and varied from its initial level as set through the calibration SAM.

For the specific exercise presented in this paper, the logical candidate to shock is the money inflow spent in the region by non-residents, distinguished by origin (rest of Spain, rest of the world). The magnitude of the shock, which is of course a reduction, can be estimated by considering some preliminary information on

³ The partition between exogenous and endogenous variables can be changed before any simulation run by swapping an identical number of variables between the two groups.

touristic flows in the year 2020. The year includes very different sub-periods: when the region was totally open (first two months), totally closed, open for national travelers, partially open to international travelers with movement limitations (fewer flights, more controls and mobility constraints).

The Spanish National Institute for Statistics provides detailed data on tourism expenditure in Andalusia by tourists from different destinations. Expenditure by tourists coming to Andalusia from the rest of Spain fell by 25% in the first quarter of 2020, compared to the previous year. The year-on-year differences for the second and third quarter of 2020 are -85% and -21% (INE 2021a). The relatively better performance in the summer reflects the easing of mobility restrictions over that season. Tourist expenditure from the EU and the rest of the world decreased even more in year-on-year terms, by 20%, 99% and 79% respectively in the first, second and third quarter of 2020 (INE 2021b). Figure 2 displays monthly data on expenditure by international tourists in Andalusia, highlighting how year-on-year differences in expenditure were rather stable until 2020, when tourism expenditure collapsed with only a short revival during the summer (INE 2021b). Based on these data, we find that expenditure by international tourists fell by 75% and we correspondingly reduced the incoming revenue by the same amount in the simulation. Expenditure by tourists from the rest of Spain falls slightly less, thus we applied a shock to consumption expenditure from the rest of Spain of -70%.

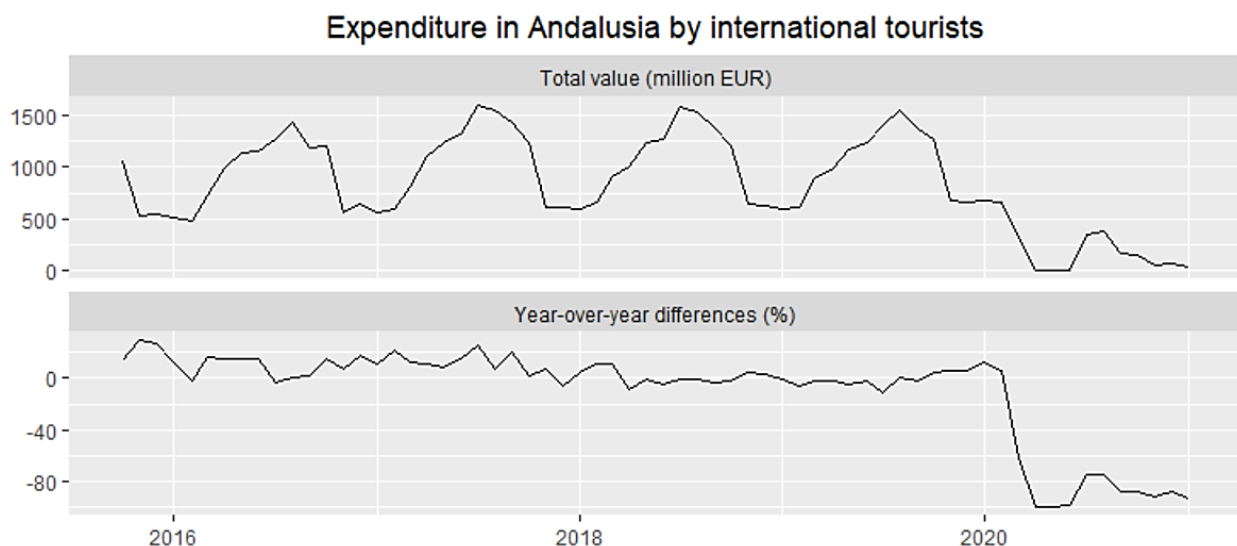


Figure 2: Tourism expenditure in Andalusia by international tourists. Source: Spanish National Institute for Statistics (INE)

4. Economic Impact

The fall in tourists' expenditure has generated far-reaching effects in the Andalusian economy, and some of them are captured by our general equilibrium model, where sectoral interdependences are considered.

The tourism shock leads to an excess supply for Andalusian products and resources, bringing about lower prices in equilibrium and an overall -3.74% fall in regional GDP. This finding is of course contingent on the underlying assumptions of our simulation exercise, where other direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 are not taken into account, whereas regional exports and interregional income transfers are kept constant.

Not surprisingly, we found that the most impacted sectors are those heavily reliant on tourism. From our SAM data we find that, on average, non-resident tourists spend 33% of their total consumption budget on

food and drinks services, 21% on accommodation and 13% on real estate services. On the other hand, there are sectors where expenditure by non-residents makes up half or more of all sales, e.g.: accommodation and rental services, maritime, air and land transport, creative and cultural services.

The fall in demand yields a contraction in prices and output, which is especially relevant in tourism-exposed industries. However, it would also shift resources towards those industries, which are relatively less affected by the shock, where we could ultimately notice some expansion. This kind of outcome is typical of general equilibrium analyses, driven by relative prices and competitiveness: even in the presence of a negative macroeconomic shock some sectors may turn out to gain.

This result can be noticed in Figure 3, displaying the largest price variations for goods and services produced in Andalusia. Whereas the overall price level lowers by -1.28%, accommodation services (where almost 90% of output was initially directed to tourists) experience a drop of around 25%. Something similar, albeit less pronounced, occurs for rental services, drinks production and real estate. On the other hand, we see rising prices for R&D and construction, by 10% and 5%, respectively.

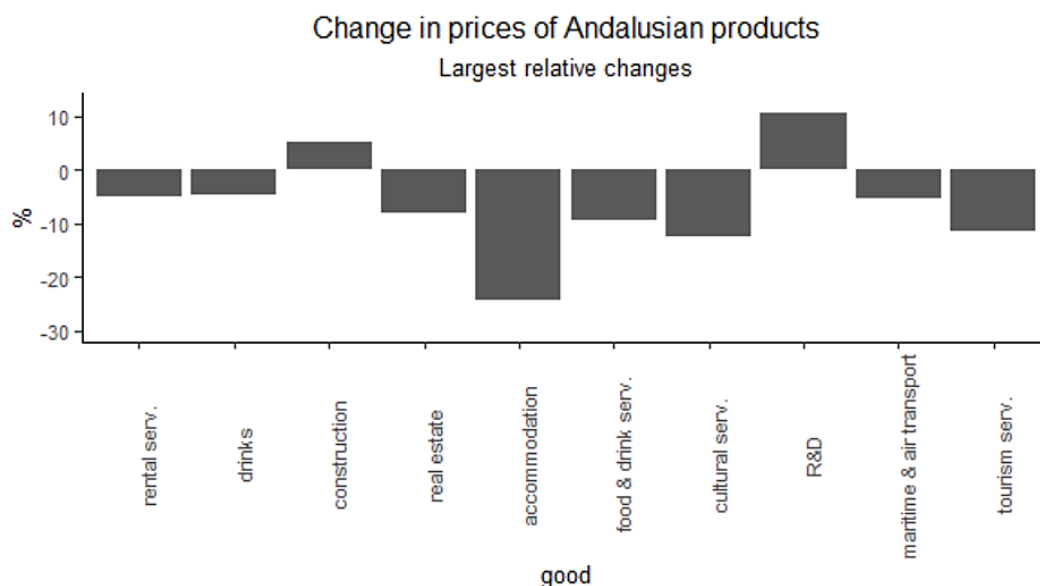


Figure 3. Largest changes in the prices of Andalusian goods and services. Source: authors' simulation.

Of course, price changes are related to changes in output, as can be noticed in Figure 4, which illustrates the largest relative changes in output by industry. Most industries with large prices drop in Figure 3 are also present in Figure 4, because of their large output variation. As in Figure 3, accommodation services account for the widest change, with output falling by more than 30%. A different response can be observed in the real estate industry. There, prices fall by around 10%, yet the change in output is relatively small (-2.5%). This is because the missing demand by tourists is partially made up by a 2.3% increase in consumption from residents, taking advantage of the lower prices.

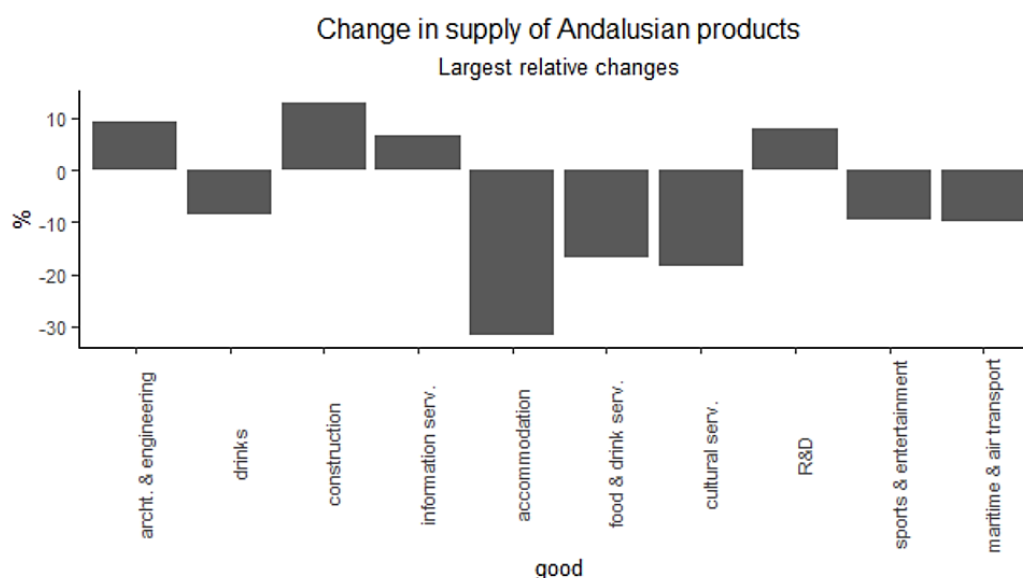


Figure 4. Largest changes in output volume of Andalusian goods and services. Source: authors' simulation.

The general picture of structural adjustment in the Andalusian economic system is characterized by market shares shifting away from many service industries towards the primary and secondary sectors. For instance, gross production in architecture and engineering, construction and information services increase between +6% and +12%.

This structural adjustment process leads to changing demand for specific types of workers, whereas the overall unemployment rate rises by +1.84%. Employment and unemployment levels are endogenous in the model because the average wage (by worker category) is determined by a wage curve function, where wages are quite rigid and only minimally adjust to the excess supply of labor.

There are, however, large differences in employment rates and changes across the different categories of workers. We found that service and shop workers suffer the largest decline in employment (-5.34%), as this type of labor is largely employed in tourism industries such as restaurants, hotels, or tour guides. Somewhat less severe is the decline in employment for clerks and technically skilled labor, falling by -2.5% and -1.6%, respectively. On the other hand, it turns out that the demand for labor increases (+4.1%) for agricultural and low-skilled labor (Figure 5). This latter finding can be explained through the combined effect of expanding sectors (e.g., agriculture, construction), and relatively high inter-sectoral mobility of workers (see Table 1). Notice, for instance, that production in the domestic construction industry increases by +12%, where almost 30% of non-skilled workers are employed.

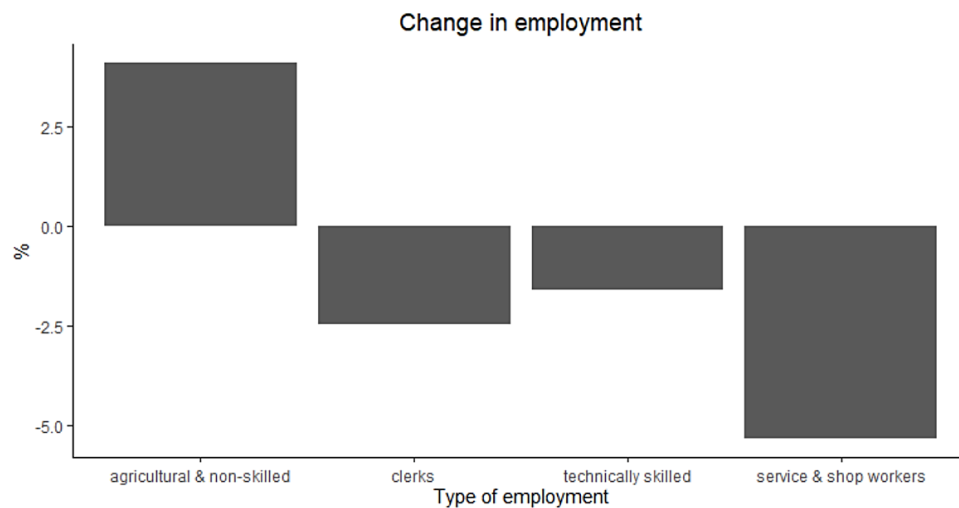


Figure 5. Change in employment by worker category. Source: authors' simulation.

Factor income is of course affected by varying levels of employment and wages, but also by drops in the returns on non-labor primary factors, such as capital (Figure 6). We found that factor income for service and shop workers falls the most (-5.34%), whereas revenue for agricultural and low-skilled labor increases (+4%). Returns on capital plunge by 4.1%. Total factor income, which is composed of the different sources, is found to shrink by -2.57%.

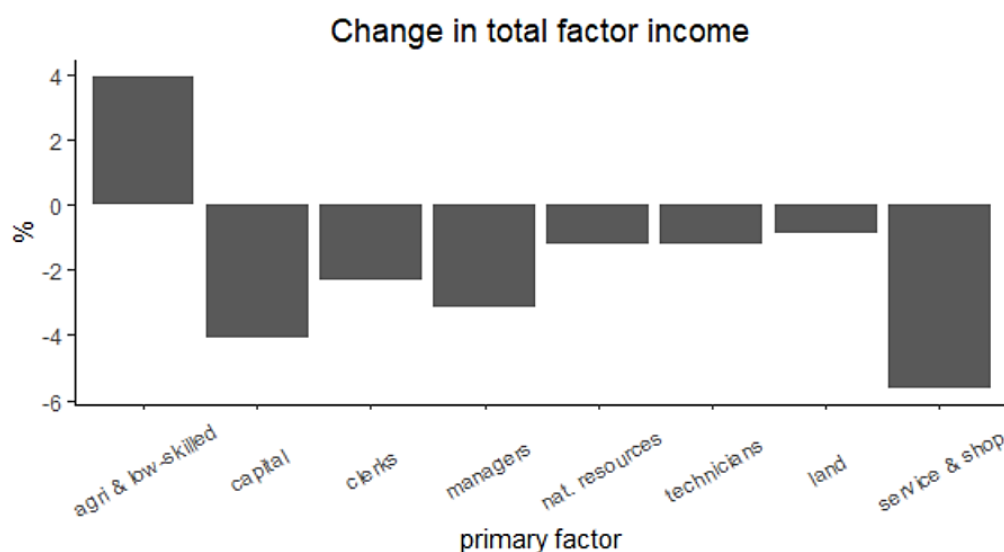


Figure 6: Change in factor income per type of factor. Source: authors' simulation.

In our model, resident households receive income associated with their ownership shares of primary factors, but they also get transfers and factor income generated abroad. These two latter components are kept fixed in our simulation, so that total household income for residents declines by only -1.7%. The parameter of the marginal propensity to consume (that is, the share of income devoted to consumption) is also exogenously given and fixed.

An aggregate index of market prices, which considers endogenous substitution of imported goods (whose price is constant) with cheaper Andalusian products, goes down by -1.28%. However, not all price changes are equally relevant for residents. For example, falling prices for hotels are not going to substantially increase residents' welfare, but prices for real estate and food and drinks services (-8.14% and -9.28%) do. Indeed, expenditure on real estate makes up 25% of their pre-shock consumption basket, whereas food and drink services accounts for 14%. It is important to note here that, according to the international

national accounting rules, the share for real estate consists of both normal rental payments as well as a kind of virtual rent paid by owners to themselves.

As prices lower more in our experiment where the tourism expenditure shares are larger, the price impact on residents' welfare can be assessed by looking at the correlation between resident and non-resident consumption patterns, as well as that between price changes and resident consumption patterns. Figure 7 presents a correlogram, where relationships are shown between resident and non-resident expenditure shares, changes in industrial production output levels and prices.

Not surprisingly, changes in prices and output volumes are strongly correlated (+0.84), where the typical association is between lower price and lower production. On the other hand, both prices and output are characterized by a negative correlation with the consumption shares of non-residents (-0.61 and -0.65 respectively). This is because the demand shock will be more severe where tourist consumption is larger. Most importantly, a high positive correlation is found between resident and non-resident consumption patterns (+0.62). This means that the two patterns are quite similar, but it also means that large impacts on prices and output are occurring in those industries which are also important consumption items for resident households.

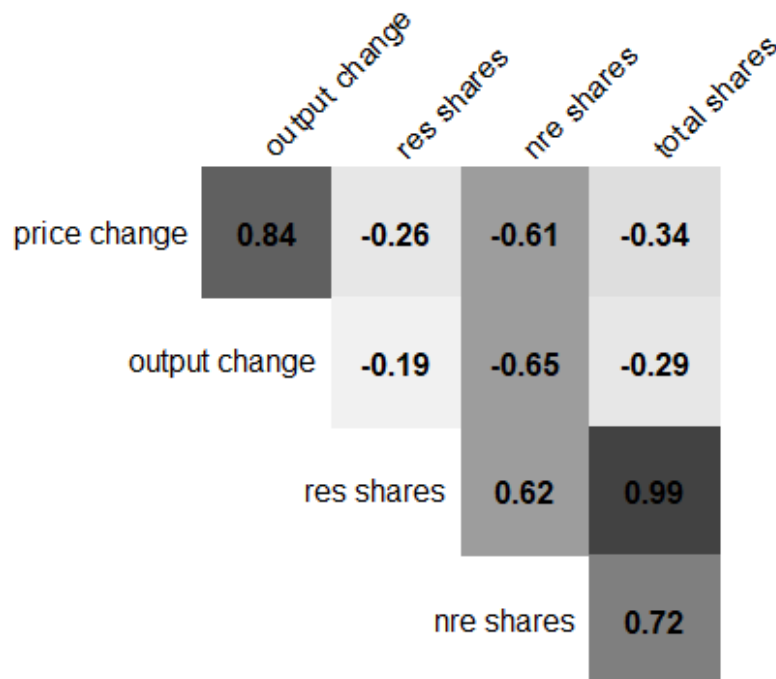


Figure 7: Correlation between consumption patterns and changes in price and output. Source: authors' simulation.

One monetary measure of welfare that is often employed in this kind of analyses is the Equivalent Variation (EV). The EV is obtained from data on real consumption, by calculating what change in expenditure or available income could have generated the same variation of utility, at unchanged baseline prices. We computed the EV for resident households in our model and we found that it is mildly positive, amounting to 1967.55 millions of Euros (2016).

This result is counterintuitive, as we are considering a negative macroeconomic shock which, in the end, turns out to slightly benefit the resident households. We postpone at a later stage in this paper a discussion of this outcome, where we shall also provide a possible interpretation. In terms of model mechanics,

however, the finding can be readily explained. There are two counteracting forces, determining the level of real purchasing power of resident households: (1) diminished nominal income: (2) lower prices. However, the first effect is dumped by the existence of some constant income sources, whereas the second effect is amplified by the concentration of price reductions in key consumption goods and services. Therefore, our result simply demonstrates that the positive price effect is stronger than the negative income effect.

5. Environmental Impact

A frequent comment about the COVID-19 crisis is that, while being bad for humans, it generated positive consequences for the planet, in terms of reduced pollution and environmental impact. We tried to verify if this claim is confirmed in our analysis.

To this end, data for GHG emissions (CO₂ and non-CO₂) and air pollutants was retrieved from the auxiliary data sets of the GTAP global SAM, version 10 (Aguiar et al. 2019). More specifically, we considered those related to domestic production and private consumption, disregarding those from intermediate demand, to avoid double counting. Since data is provided at the national level, we calculated a set of pollution intensity coefficients (akin to input-output coefficients) for Spain, applying them to some endogenous variables in our MEGA model.

We found that CO₂ emissions associated to production in Andalusia would decrease by around 3%, corresponding to 0.23 metric tons of CO₂. Figure 8 illustrates the largest absolute changes in CO₂ emissions by industry. Transport services are the largest contributors to the decline of CO₂ emissions. This is because transport industries are emission-intensive, and consequently even a small reduction in output levels could significantly reduce CO₂ emissions.⁴

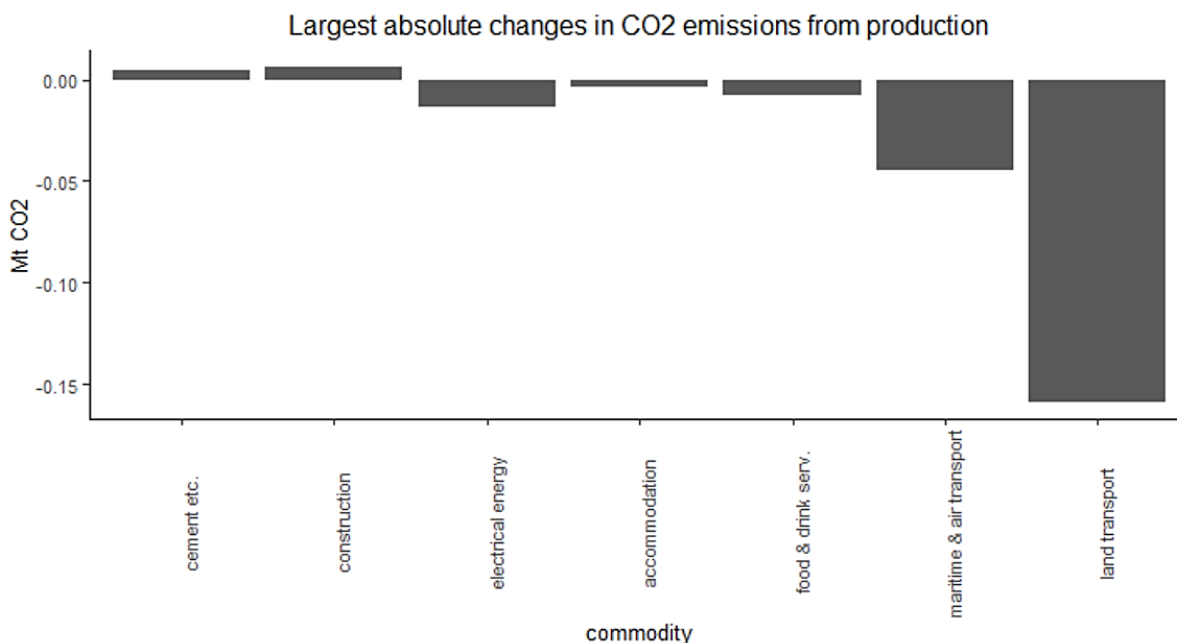


Figure 8. Absolute changes in CO₂ related to domestic production, largest differences. Source: authors' simulation.

⁴ One could notice that emissions from maritime and air transportation are underestimated. This is because we can only account here for the expenditure generated in Andalusia by tourists physically present in the region. This implies, for instance, that international air transport is not generally considered.

In our simulation, private consumption by residents increases slightly, but there is an overall drop in private consumption, caused by the reduced consumption of non-resident tourists. This fall in private consumption leads to a 6.7% reduction in CO₂ emissions, or 0.26 metric tons.

The non-CO₂ data includes emissions from methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and fluorinated gases (F-gases), for both domestic production and private consumption. Overall, non-CO₂ emissions from Andalusian production decrease by only 0.4%. There are, however, quite different results per type of non-CO₂ gas. CH₄ emissions are reduced by 0.02 CO₂-equivalent million tons (mil tCO₂-eq.), N₂O emissions by 0.002 mil tCO₂-eq. On the other hand, F-gases emissions increase slightly, by 0.004 mil tCO₂-eq. This information is visualized in Figure 9.

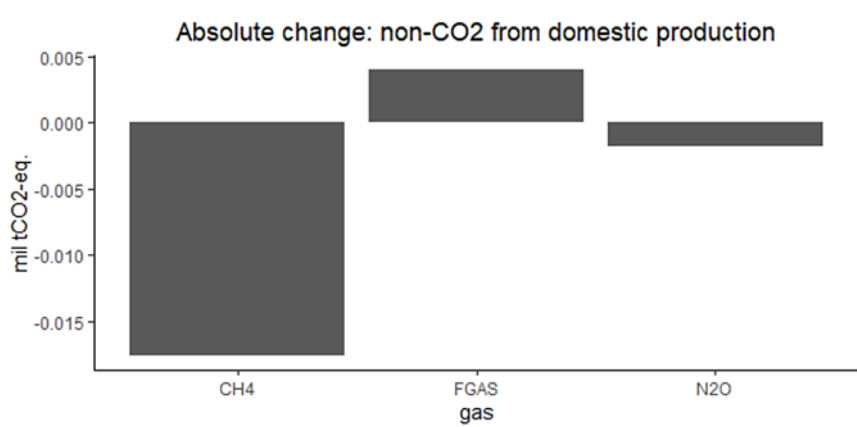


Figure 9. Absolute changes in non-CO₂ emissions related to domestic production, per non-CO₂ gas. Source: authors' simulation.

There are only six sectors in Andalusia emitting F-gases during the production phases (see Figure 10). Panel A of Figure 10 shows our estimated percentage change in output level for these industries, which are all positive. They are heavy industries, not closely related to tourism, whose production increases, because of factors shifting away from sectors more directly affected by the plunging demand.

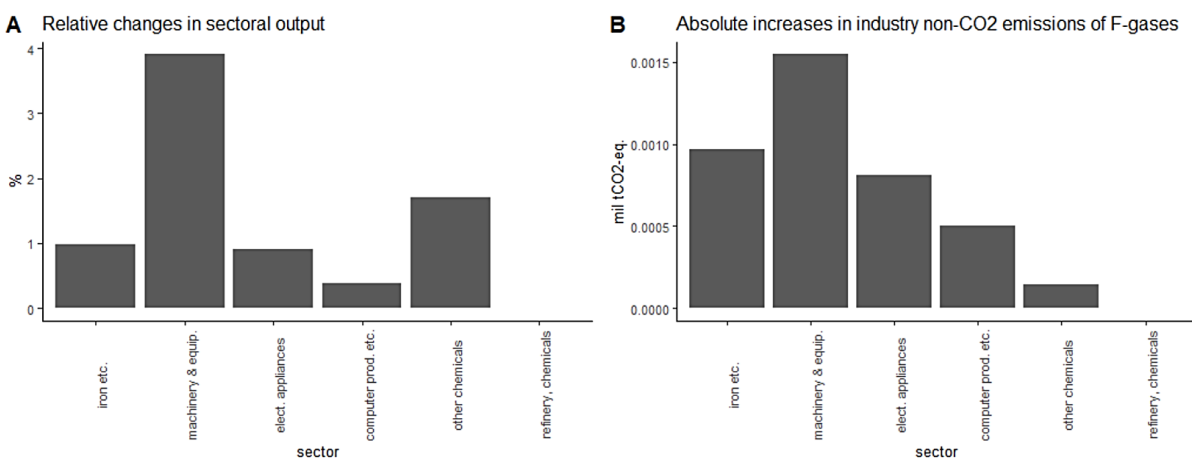


Figure 10. Relative changes in output compared to absolute changes in emissions of F-gases from domestic production, selected sectors. Source: authors' simulation.

There are no emissions of F-gases associated with final consumption. However, emissions of CH₄ and N₂O would decline slightly, by -0.0024 and -0.0041 mil tCO₂-eq., respectively.

Air pollution data is also available for pollutants resulting from domestic production and private consumption. A wide range of air pollutants is included: carbon monoxide (CO), ammonia (NH₃), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), organic carbon (OC), particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), black carbon (BC).

As for the non-CO₂ emissions associated with production activities, we detected decreases in some air pollutants, as well as increases in others. Overall, we got a total increase of 0.23 Gigagrams (Gg) for the whole set of air pollutants. This total increase is, to a large extent, due to rising levels of CO. The key drivers are the iron, steel, and minerals industries, where CO pollution rises between 0.05Gg to 0.1Gg.

Indeed, most of air pollution in Andalusia is caused by a few heavy industries, while little pollution is generated by the typical tourism services sectors. Consequently, the shift away from tourism to some heavy industries explains much of the rise in air pollution. One exception is the drinks industry. Since this sector depends on tourism, the supply of drinks products declines by almost 10%, bringing about in a notable reduction in air pollution. On the other hand, air pollution generated by land transportation declines significantly, especially for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, where there is a -0.04Gg and -0.02Gg variation, respectively.

However, the increase in air pollution from domestic production is more than offset by the reduction coming from private consumption, amounting to -8.8Gg. As can be seen in Figure 11, this reduction is mostly driven by the -6Gg decrease in CO pollution. Other notable reductions are those of NMVOC (-1.5Gg) and NO_x (-0.8Gg).

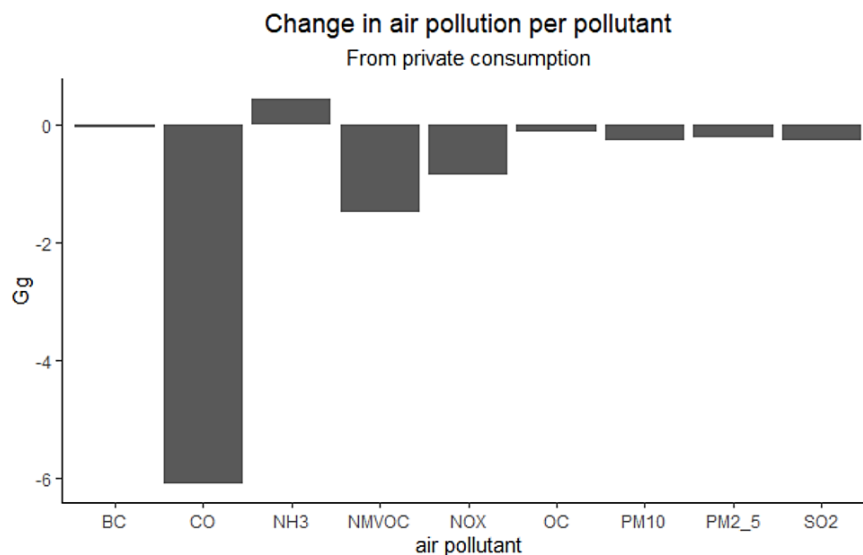


Figure 11. Absolute changes in air pollution related to private consumption, per type of pollutant. Source: authors' simulation.

The pollution impact can be usefully decomposed in two parts. Indeed, total emissions vary because of the general activity slowdown, as well because of the different sectoral mix in the economy. To gauge the relevance of this second factor, we conducted an estimation of the hypothetical volume of production-related emissions, under the hypothesis that total gross output would remain unchanged, but industry shares would be those emerging after applying the shock. In this way, we aim to detect how much the

structural change, induced by the lower tourism expenditure, contributes to the overall variation in pollution emissions, net of the general decrease in economic activity.

Results are summarized in Table 2, displaying the variation, in absolute physical volume⁵ and in relative percentage, for all greenhouse gases and air pollutants emissions generated by production activities in the region.

Table 2. Decomposition of changes in production related emissions

GHGs	PHYSICAL			PERCENTAGE		
	Structure	Scale	Total	Structure	Scale	Total
CO2	-0.129	-0.097	-0.226	-1.66%	-1.26%	-2.92%
N2O	0.006	-0.008	-0.002	1.06%	-1.37%	-0.31%
CH4	0.020	-0.038	-0.018	0.73%	-1.35%	-0.62%
F-gas	0.010	-0.006	0.004	2.21%	-1.34%	0.87%
Total non-CO2	0.037	-0.052	-0.015	0.96%	-1.35%	-0.40%
<i>Air Pollutants</i>						
BC	0.007	-0.008	-0.001	1.10%	-1.26%	-0.16%
CO	1.151	-0.820	0.331	1.80%	-1.28%	0.52%
NH3	0.031	-0.023	0.008	1.67%	-1.26%	0.41%
NMVOC	0.222	-0.269	-0.047	1.03%	-1.24%	-0.22%
NOX	0.019	-0.025	-0.006	0.95%	-1.25%	-0.30%
OC	0.011	-0.013	-0.002	1.04%	-1.25%	-0.21%
PM10	0.100	-0.114	-0.014	1.11%	-1.27%	-0.16%
PM2.5	0.038	-0.041	-0.002	1.18%	-1.25%	-0.07%
SO2	0.027	-0.065	-0.038	0.52%	-1.23%	-0.72%

Total variation can be decomposed as the algebraic sum of two factors: scale change and structure change. As expected, the scale effect is always negative, which simply means that the decrease in economic activity reduces emissions. When expressed in percentage terms, variations are quite similar; this is a direct consequence of assuming proportionality between emissions and industrial output volumes.

Interestingly, the structural change component is generally positive, the only exception being CO₂. This means that the different sectoral mix generated by the tourism demand shock would push the regional economy towards more polluting industries. Therefore, structure and scale go to opposite directions. Ordinarily, the scale effect is stronger and total emissions are lower, but this is not the case for fluorinated gases, black carbon, and ammonia.

6. Discussion and Concluding Remarks

We have used in this study a general equilibrium model to assess the consequences on the Andalusian economy of the drop in consumption demand, generated by the mobility restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic in the year 2020. The numerical exercise is a comparative static one and, as such, it is not intended to realistically replicate what has occurred. Like in a hypothetical laboratory, we are “isolating” what we believe is the most important impact of COVID-19 in Andalusia, disregarding all the other concurring effects, taking place in Andalusia or elsewhere. Furthermore, since we are contrasting two general equilibrium states, in a setting without explicit time dimension, we cannot capture differences in

⁵ For CO₂ : thousands of tons. For non-CO₂ : thousands of tons of CO₂ equivalent. For air pollutants: Gigagrams.

rigidity and adjustment speed among markets. All these are well known limitations, intrinsic to the methodology we have adopted.

On the other hand, our disaggregated, internally consistent general equilibrium framework allows us to highlight the systemic, high-order propagation effects of exogenous shocks, like the sudden drop in tourism demand. Overall, the key insight emerging from our analysis is that the COVID crumbling of tourism demand generates very relevant distributional consequences. In other words, not everybody is equally affected by the macroeconomic shock, whereas somebody turns out to gain.

We can see this in many ways. Even if gross production declines in most industries, we found that output volumes notably increase for Cement production (+2.12%), Construction (+3.60%), Engineering technical services (+3.18%), Research and development (+3.90%) and, surprisingly, Travel agencies (+3.65%).⁶

Unemployment gets worse. Still, more agricultural and non-skilled workers get employed (+4.1%), because industries performing better are relatively intensive in non-skilled labor, and workers in this category are quite mobile.

We did not find evidence of welfare reduction for resident households, *in the aggregate*. We noticed that this is due to a consumption price index falling more than nominal income, such that the purchasing power improves. This rather unexpected finding is of course a direct consequence of some assumptions we adopted, most notably the constancy of income transfers. It is also a consequence of a welfare measure which only considers consumption levels, and no other elements of “happiness”, including the health status. However, we do not believe that this result should be dismissed as totally unrealistic.

There is some (limited) evidence that income and wealth have not deteriorated for many households during the pandemic. At the same time, saving rates have significantly increased, partly because of precautionary reasons and partly because of the impossibility to spend in some non-basic items, including tourism. This has produced an unprecedented amount of hoarded liquidity (Smith, 2020).

Of course, aggregate data masks very substantial differences among households and individuals, which cannot be captured in our model, where only two representative households (resident and non-resident) are present. Wages for some workers have been protected by contractual norms and some jobs have swiftly moved into tele-working, without significant variations in productivity and sometimes even grabbing side-benefits (like savings on office space rents). Irregular, immigrant, seasonal workers, etc., have not benefitted from such degree of resilience, although some emergency relief programs have been directed to them by many governments. An analysis of the distributional effects of the pandemic is one very promising field of research, but currently still at its infancy (for an early, seminal contribution, see Glover et al., 2020).

We found the same, more complex picture, when focusing on the environmental consequences of the exogenous shock in tourism expenditure. Saying that the environmental impact of the pandemic is generally positive is far too simplistic. Looking at the results about greenhouse gases and air pollutants, we noticed that emissions for most pollutant categories would decrease but could also increase in some other cases. Furthermore, the structural change, induced by the exogenous demand shock, would imply an expansion of some polluting industries.

⁶ To correctly interpret this data, consider that our simulation does not consider constraints on international travel, nor lockdown measures. For the same reason, we noticed a somewhat limited contraction in air transportation, because most of these services may not be provided by Andalusian enterprises.

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Appendix: Structure of the MEGA General Equilibrium Model

Sets

Name	Description
a	activities
f	factors
lab \in f	labor factors
g, gg	goods
h	households
k	investments
l	locations
p	public sector
e \in l	exterior

Parameters

Name	Domains	Description
shva	a	share of value added in activity a
shf	a, f	share of factor f in value added a
shfa	a, f	share of factor f employed in activity a
shn	a, g	share of intermediate factor g in intermediate bundle of a
shga	a, g	share of good g produced by a
shfh	f, h	share of factor income f going to household h
shofi	e, f	share of outgoing factor income
shpk	p, k	share of investment type k by public sector (normally one)
shhk	h, k	share of investment type k by household h (normally one)
shek	e, k	share of investment type k by foreign agent (normally one)
shgk	g, k	share of good g in investment demand k
impc	h	internal marginal propensity to consume by household h
empc	h	external marginal propensity to consume by household h
sheh	e, h	share of external consumption e in external consumption demand h
sharm	g, l	total Armington shares
ini_nx		initial level of trade balance
ini_emp		initial employment level
un%		baseline unemployment rate
ao	a	output productivity shifter in activity a
ava	a	value added productivity shifter in activity a
ain	a	intermediate productivity shifter in activity a
af	a, f	productivity shifter of factor f in activity a
an	a, g	productivity shifter of intermediate factor g in activity a
aarm	g, l	productivity shifter for Armington demand
to	a, p	output tax rate
tf	f, p	factor income tax rate
tc	h, p	consumption tax rate
c0	g, h	committed consumption
c1	g, h	marginal consumption parameter
lct	a, f	activity production losses
sigmap	a	CES elasticity of substitution in upper level nest production activity a

sigmav	a	CES elasticity of substitution in value added a
sigman	a	CES elasticity of substitution in intermediate bundle a
omegas	a	CET elasticity of transformation for activity a
sigmaa	g	CES elasticity of Armington nest for good g
omegaf	f	CET elasticity of transformation for factor f
beta	lab	wage curve elasticity

Variables

Name	Domains	Description
qgl	g, l	total supply of good g by source l
pgl	g, l	market price of good g by source l
pg	g	market price of good g
qa	a	total supply of activity a
qga	a, g	supply of good g by activity a
qan	a	same as above, but net of compensation transfers
pa	a	price index of activity a
qva	a	value added bundle in activity a
pva	a	price index value added bundle in activity a
qfa	a, f	demand of primary factor f in activity a
qnd	a	intermediate bundle in activity a
pnd	a	price index intermediate bundle in activity a
qf	f	total supply of primary factor f
qna	a, g	demand of intermediate factor g in activity a
pf	f	market price of primary factor f (index)
pfa	a, f	market price of primary factor f in activity a
ih	h	household income
ip	p	public sector income
ik	k	investment expenditure
ie	e	RoW and RoS income
tif	f	total factor income
evash	a, f	endogenous factor share of value added
armDem	g	total Armington demand
qgh	g, h	consumption demand of good g by household h
veh	e, h	consumption abroad in e by household h (value)
qgp	g, p	demand of good g by the public sector
qgk	g, k	investment demand of good g
qge	g, e	export of good g to e
esharm	g, l	endogenous Armington shares
tra	a, p	production tax revenue by activity
trh	p	consumption tax revenue
trf	p	factor tax revenue
trep	e, p	transfers to public sector from outside
trhp	h, p	transfer to households from public
treh	e, h	transfer to households from outside
ifi	e, f	incoming factor income
ofi	e, f	outgoing factor income
hsav	h, k	households savings
psav	k, p	public savings

esav	e, k	external savings
defl		regional GDP deflator
unemp		unemployment rate

Equations

(A1) demand for the value added bundle

$$qva_a = shva_a \cdot qa_a \cdot \frac{pa_a^{\sigma_{pa_a}}}{pva_a} \cdot (ao_a \cdot ava_a)^{(\sigma_{pa_a}-1)} \quad \forall a$$

(A2) demand for the intermediate bundle

$$qnd_a = (1 - shva_a) \cdot qa_a \cdot \frac{pa_a^{\sigma_{pa_a}}}{pnd_a} \cdot (ao_a \cdot ain_a)^{(\sigma_{pa_a}-1)} \quad \forall a$$

(A3) unit cost of production in activity a

$$pa_a = \frac{1}{ao_a} \cdot (shva_a \cdot \frac{pva_a^{\sigma_{pa_a}}}{ava_a} + (1 - shva_a) \cdot \frac{pnd_a^{\sigma_{pa_a}}}{ain_a})^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma_{pa_a}}} \quad \forall a$$

(A4) demand for primary factor f in activity a

$$qfa_{a,f} = shf_{a,f} \cdot qva_a \cdot \frac{pva_a^{\sigma_{pva_a}}}{pfa_{a,f}} \cdot af_{a,f}^{(\sigma_{pva_a}-1)} \quad \forall a, f$$

(A5) price of value added bundle in a

$$pva_a = \sum_f (shf_{a,f} \cdot \frac{pfa_{a,f}^{(1-\sigma_{pva_a})}}{af_{a,f}})^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma_{pva_a}}} \quad \forall a$$

(A6) demand for intermediate factor g in activity a

$$qna_{a,g} = shn_{a,g} \cdot qnd_a \cdot \frac{pnd_a^{\sigma_{pnd_a}}}{pg_g} \cdot an_{a,g}^{(\sigma_{pnd_a}-1)} \quad \forall a, g$$

(A7) price of intermediate bundle in a

$$pnd_a = \sum_g (shn_{a,g} \cdot \frac{pg_g^{(1-\sigma_{pnd_a})}}{an_{a,g}})^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma_{pnd_a}}} \quad \forall a$$

(A8) define activity level net of compensating transfers

$$qan_a = qa_a - \sum_f lct_{a,f} \quad \forall a$$

(A9) supply of good g by activity a

$$qga_{a,g} = shga_{a,g} \cdot qan_a \cdot \frac{pgl_{g,\bar{A}}^{\omega_{as_a}}}{pa_a} \quad \forall a, g$$

(A10) price index for a

$$pa_a = \sum_g (shga_{a,g} \cdot pgl_{g,\bar{A}}^{(1+\omega_{as_a})})^{\frac{1}{1+\omega_{as_a}}} \quad \forall a$$

(A11) total domestic supply of good g

$$qgl_{g,\bar{A}} = \sum_a qga_{a,g} \quad \forall g$$

(A12) definition of the tax revenue on income, by activity

$$tra_{a,p} = pa_a \cdot qa_a \cdot to_{a,p} \quad \forall a, p$$

(A13) definition of the tax revenue on consumption

$$trh_p = \sum_{g,h,l} (qgh_{g,h} \cdot esharm_{g,l} \cdot pgl_{g,l} \cdot tc_{h,p}) \quad \forall p$$

(A14) definition of the tax revenue on factors income

$$trf_p = \sum_f (tif_f \cdot tf_{f,p}) \quad \forall p$$

(A15) public sector income

$$ip_p = \sum_a tra_{a,p} + trh_p + trf_p + \sum_e trep_{e,p} \quad \forall p$$

(A16) public sector surplus or deficit (by investment type)

$$psav_{k,p} = shpk_{p,k} \cdot (ip_p - \sum_{g,l} (qgp_{g,p} \cdot esharm_{g,l} \cdot pgl_{g,l})) - \sum_h trhp_{h,p} \quad \forall k, p$$

(A17) endogenous factor share of value added

$$evash_{a,f} = \frac{pfa_{a,f} \cdot qfa_{a,f}}{qva_a \cdot pva_a} \quad \forall a, f$$

(A18) total regional factor income

$$tif_f \cdot (1 + \sum_p tf_{f,p}) = pf_f \cdot (qf_f - \sum_a lct_{a,f}) + \sum_e ifi_{e,f} - \sum_e ofi_{e,f} - \sum_{a,p} (tra_{a,p} \cdot evash_{a,f}) \quad \forall f$$

(A19) definition of outgoing factor income

$$ofi_{e,f} = shofi_{e,f} \cdot (pf_f \cdot (qf_f - \sum_a lct_{a,f}) - \sum_{a,p} (tra_{a,p} \cdot evash_{a,f})) \quad \forall e, f$$

(A20) private sector income

$$ih_h = \sum_f (shfh_{f,h} \cdot tif_f) + \sum_p trhp_{h,p} + \sum_e treh_{e,h} \quad \forall h$$

(A21) demand for internal hh consumption

$$(qgh_{g,h} - c0_{g,h}) \cdot pg_g \cdot (1 + \sum_p tc_{h,p}) = c1_{g,h} \cdot (impc_h \cdot ih_h - \sum_{gg} (c0_{gg,h} \cdot pg_{gg} \cdot (1 + \sum_p tc_{h,p}))) \quad \forall g, h$$

(A22) demand for external hh consumption (total value)

$$veh_{e,h} = sheh_{e,h} \cdot empc_h \cdot ih_h \quad \forall e, h$$

(A23) private saving

$$hsav_{h,k} = shhk_{h,k} \cdot (1 - impc_h - empc_h) \cdot ih_h \quad \forall h, k$$

(A24) income available for investments

$$ik_k = \sum_{h|hsav.L_{h,k}} hsav_{h,k} + \sum_p psav_{k,p} + \sum_e esav_{e,k} \quad \forall k$$

(A1) demand of investment goods by type k

$$qgk_{g,k} = \frac{shgk_{g,k} \cdot ik_k}{pg_g} \quad \forall g, k$$

(A25) income to RoS or RoW

$$ie_e = \sum_g (pgl_{g,e} \cdot qgl_{g,e}) + \sum_f ofi_{e,f} + \sum_h veh_{e,h} \quad \forall e$$

(A26) foreign savings

$$esav_{e,k} = shek_{e,k} \cdot (ie_e - \sum_g (qge_{g,e} \cdot pgl_{g,\mathbb{A}}) - \sum_f ifi_{e,f} - \sum_h treh_{e,h} - \sum_p trep_{e,p}) \quad \forall e, k$$

(A27) endogenous Armington shares

$$esharm_{g,l} = sharm_{g,l} \cdot \frac{pg_g^{\text{sigmaa}_g}}{pgl_{g,l}} \cdot aarm_{g,l}^{(\text{sigmaa}_g - 1)} \quad \forall g, l$$

(A28) Armington price index

$$pg_g = \sum_l (sharm_{g,l} \cdot \frac{pgl_{g,l}^{(1-\text{sigmaa}_g)}}{aarm_{g,l}^{\frac{1}{1-\text{sigmaa}_g}}}) \quad \forall g$$

(A29) Total Armington demand

$$armDem_g = \sum_a qna_{a,g} + \sum_h qgh_{g,h} + \sum_p qgp_{g,p} + \sum_k qgk_{g,k} \quad \forall g$$

(A30) Armington demand split for good g non-domestic

$$qgl_{g,e} = esharm_{g,e} \cdot armDem_g \quad \forall g, e$$

(A31) Armington demand split for good g domestic

$$qgl_{g,A} = esharm_{g,A} \cdot armDem_g + \sum_e qge_{g,e} \quad \forall g$$

(A32) market equilibrium for factors (CET)

$$qfa_{a,f} = shfa_{a,f} \cdot qf_f \cdot \frac{pfa_{a,f}^{\omega_{af}}}{pf_f} \quad \forall a, f$$

(A33) factor price index

$$pf_f = \sum_a (shfa_{a,f} \cdot pfa_{a,f}^{(1+\omega_{af})})^{\frac{1}{1+\omega_{af}}} \quad \forall f$$

(A34) regional GDP deflator

$$defl \cdot \sum_a qva_a = \sum_a (pva_a \cdot qva_a)$$

(A35) external trade closure (fixes foreign savings)

$$ini_nx = \sum_{g,e} (qge_{g,e} \cdot pgl_{g,A}) - \sum_{g,e} (pgl_{g,e} \cdot qgl_{g,e})$$

(A36) unemployment rate

$$unemp = un\% - (1 - un\%) \left(\frac{\sum_{lab} qf_{lab}}{ini_emp} - 1 \right)$$

(A37) wage curves

$$pf_{lab} = 1 - beta_{lab} \left(\frac{unemp}{un\%} - 1 \right) \quad \forall lab$$