

The Inflationary Effects of Sectoral Reallocation

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Overview

1. Motivation

2. Model

3. COVID-Demand Shock

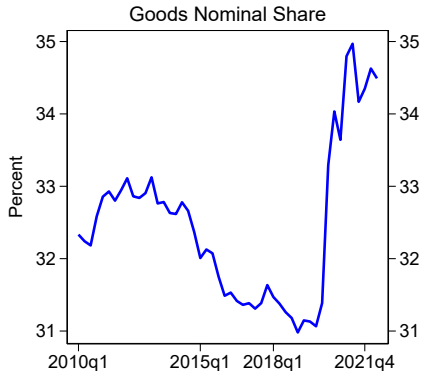
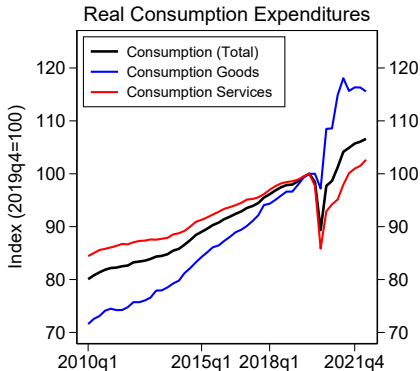
4. All Shocks

5. Experiments

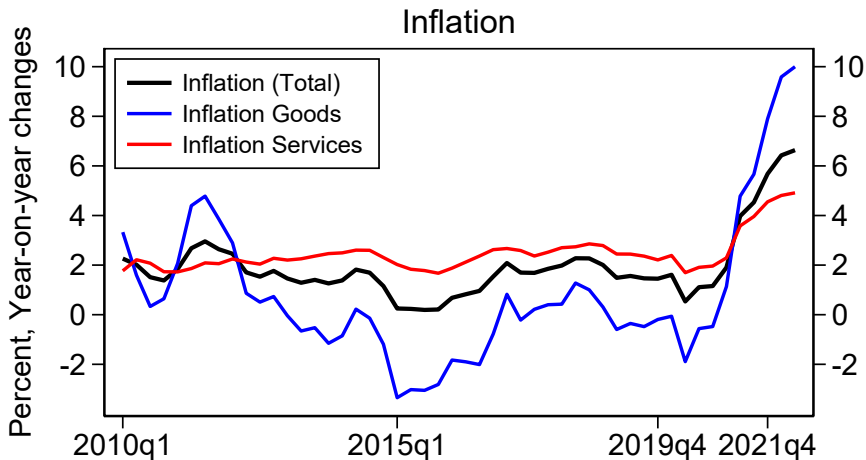
Conclusion

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Fact 1: Sudden Shift in Consumption Expenditures

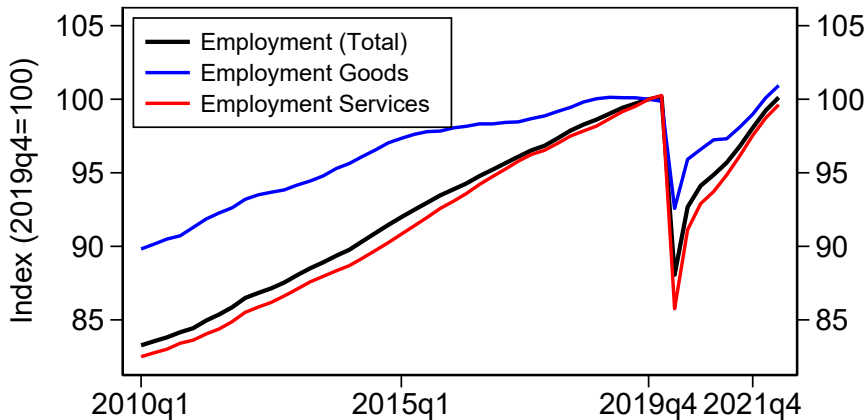


Fact 2: Rise in Inflation

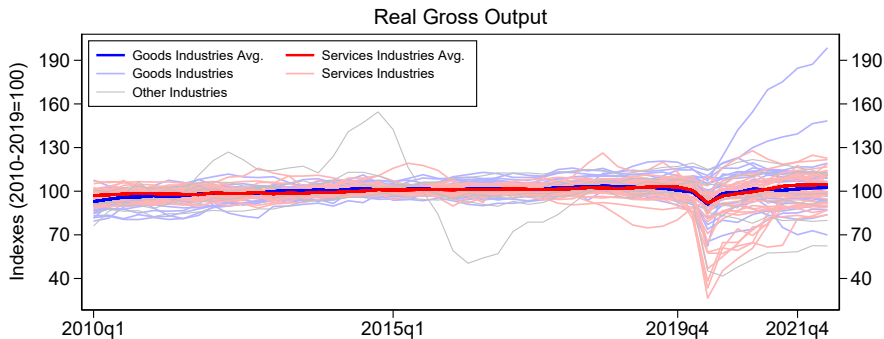


Fact 3: Fall in Employment

Employment



Fact 4: Increase in Industry-level Dispersion



How Does Demand Reallocation Affect Inflation?

We study reallocation in New Keynesian model with

1. multi-sector input-output structure
2. costly input adjustment (hiring costs)
3. heterogeneous price rigidity across sectors

We estimate the model with three shocks:

1. Preference shift from services to goods (“COVID demand shock”)
2. Sector-specific TFP shocks
3. Aggregate Labor Supply Shock (“Great Resignation”)

Main Results

- Demand reallocation explains a large portion of the rise in US inflation
 1. Hiring frictions \Rightarrow (1) goods sectors struggle to expand; (2) services sectors cut employment sharply $\Rightarrow \uparrow$ inflation
 2. Goods prices more flexible than services $\Rightarrow \uparrow \uparrow$ inflation
- Demand reallocation explains cross-sectional industry dynamics
- TFP shocks and labor supply shock explain less of aggregate inflation
- Unexpected shift in demand back to services may be inflationary
- Negative sectoral TFP shocks in 2022 partly explain why inflation stayed high

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Model Summary: Households

- Households consume goods and services
- Each are a bundle of output of the N sectors of the economy
- Time-varying preferences for goods/services (demand reallocation shock)

$$C_t = \left(\frac{C_t^g}{\omega_t} \right)^{\omega_t} \left(\frac{C_t^s}{1 - \omega_t} \right)^{1 - \omega_t}$$

- Supply labor to firms (labor supply shock)

$$U(C, N) = \frac{C^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} - \chi_t \frac{N^{1+\psi}}{1+\psi}$$

Model Summary: Firms

In each sector i there are 3 types of firms:

1. Representative Competitive Producer
2. Monopolistically Competitive Firms (sectoral productivity shocks)

$$Y_t^i = A_t^i \left(\alpha_i^{\frac{1}{\epsilon_Y}} (M_t^i)^{\frac{\epsilon_Y-1}{\epsilon_Y}} + (1 - \alpha_i)^{\frac{1}{\epsilon_Y}} (L_t^i)^{\frac{\epsilon_Y-1}{\epsilon_Y}} \right)^{\frac{\epsilon_Y}{\epsilon_Y-1}}$$

$$M_t^i = \left(\sum_{j=1}^N \Gamma_{ij}^{\frac{1}{\epsilon_M}} (M_{j,t}^i)^{\frac{\epsilon_M-1}{\epsilon_M}} \right)^{\frac{\epsilon_M}{\epsilon_M-1}}$$

3. Labor agencies (hiring costs)

$$\text{Profits} = P_t^{L,i} L_t^i - W_t L_t^i \left(1 + \mathbb{1}(L_t^i > L_{t-1}^i) \frac{c}{2} \left(\frac{L_t^i}{L_{t-1}^i} - 1 \right)^2 \right)$$

Taking the Model to the Data: Calibration

● Calibrated Parameters

- ▶ Many parameters set to standard values ($\beta, \gamma, \phi, \psi$ etc)
- ▶ Use $N = 66$ private industries
- ▶ Factor/consumption shares: BEA I-O Tables & PCE Bridge
- ▶ Sector price stickiness from Pasten, Schoenle and Weber (2020):
 - Key feature: goods prices more flexible than services

● Calibrated Shocks

1. Demand reallocation shock $\uparrow \omega_t$: match \uparrow in goods expenditure share
2. Sectoral Productivity shocks ΔA_t^i : calibrated to sectoral TFP data calculated following Vom Lehn and Winberry (2022)

Taking the Model to the Data: Estimation

- Estimated Parameters
 - ▶ Production function elasticities (ϵ_M and ϵ_Y)
 - ▶ Hiring costs (c)
- Estimated Shocks
 - ▶ Labor supply shock ($\uparrow \chi_t$)
- Estimated parameters/shocks chosen to minimize distance between model and data:
 - ▶ Cross-section of goods, services prices
 - ▶ Cross-section of goods, services output
 - ▶ Cross-section of goods, services employment
 - ▶ Aggregate employment
 - ▶ Goods inflation less services inflation

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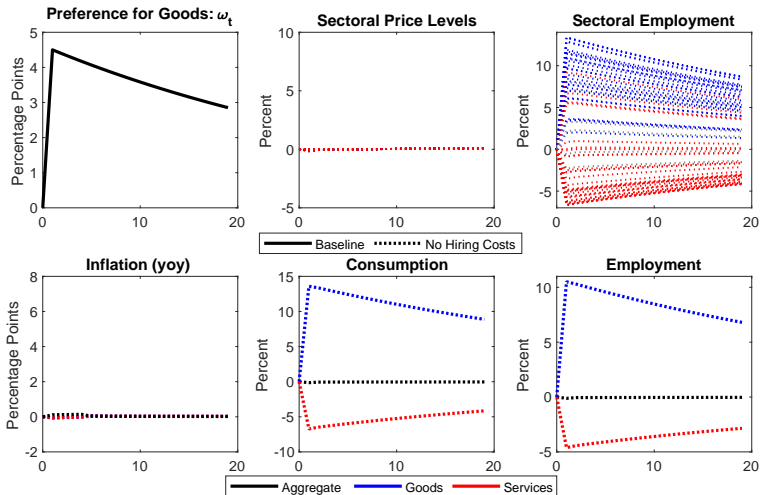
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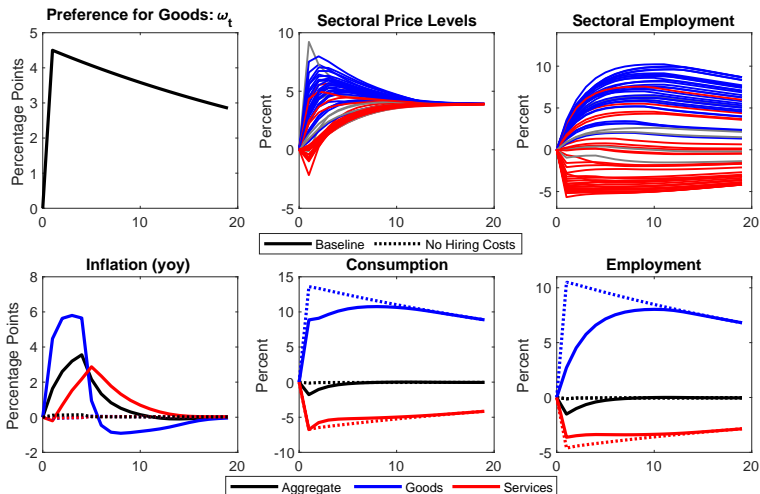
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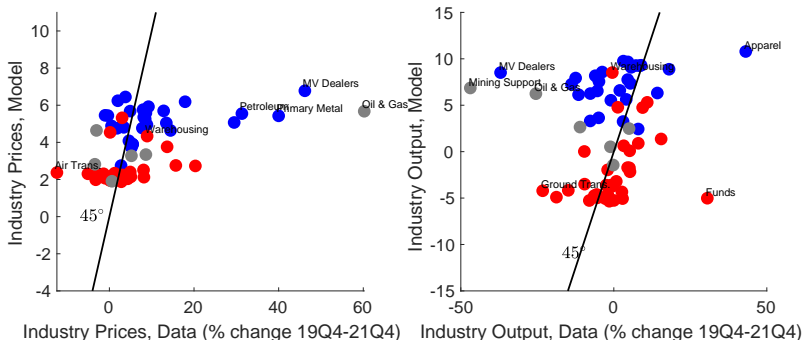
Reallocation Shock without Frictions ($\uparrow \omega_t$)



Reallocation Shock in the Baseline Model ($\uparrow \omega_t$)



Reallocation Shock in the Cross-Section

[► Details](#)

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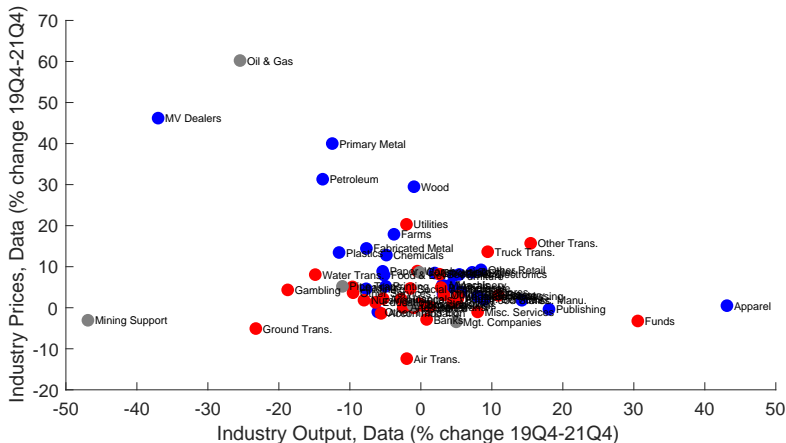
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Industry Dispersion in Price and Output Growth

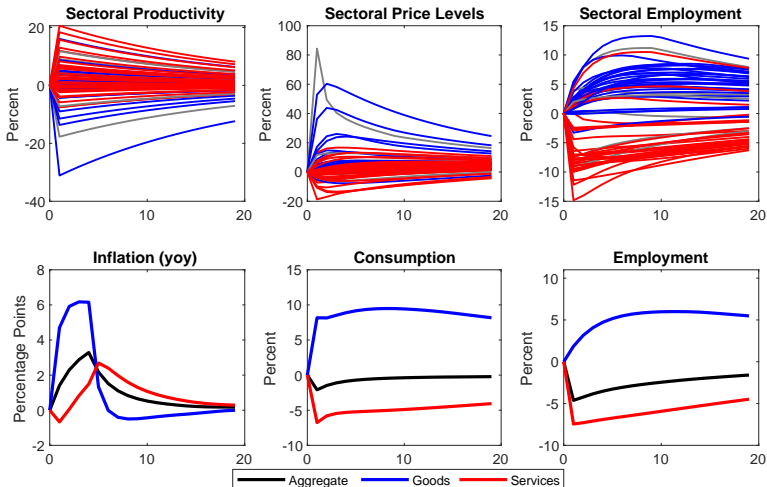
For some industries, price and quantity dynamics are hard to explain with the dynamics following demand reallocation shock:



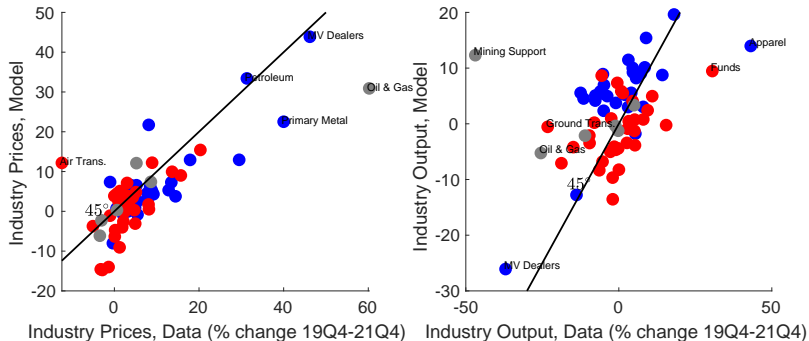
Adding TFP Shocks and Labor Supply Shocks

- We measure evolution of TFP at the industry level between 2019 and 2021 and feed estimated idiosyncratic TFP into model
- We estimate the size of the aggregate labor supply shock required to match decline in aggregate employment

All Three Shocks: Aggregates



All Three Shocks: Cross-Section



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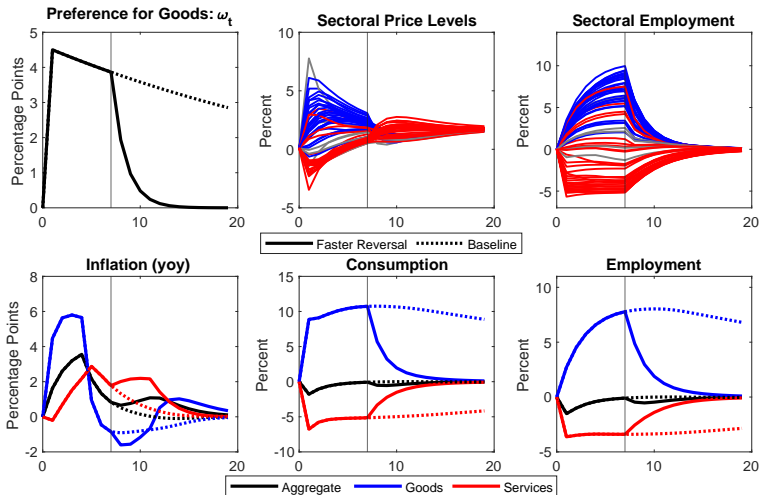
Appendix

What if demand shifts back faster than expected?

- We have assumed demand reallocation shock is persistent ($\rho = 0.975$)
- Now assume that this falls to $\rho = 0.5$ after 8 quarters
- **Inflation rises again:** services sectors had cut employment too much and now face hiring costs

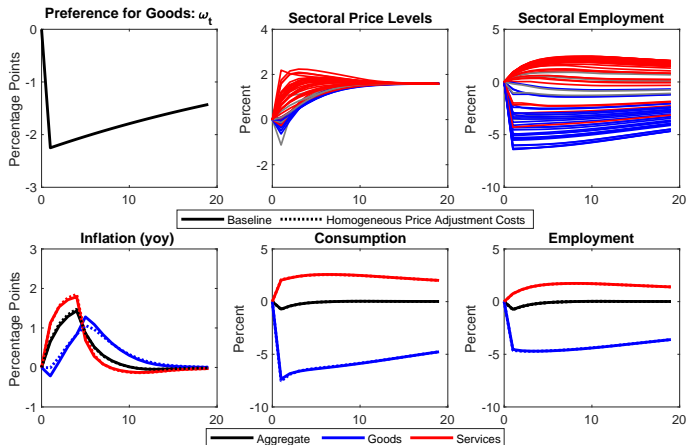
► Unexpected Persistence Experiment

Reversal Experiment



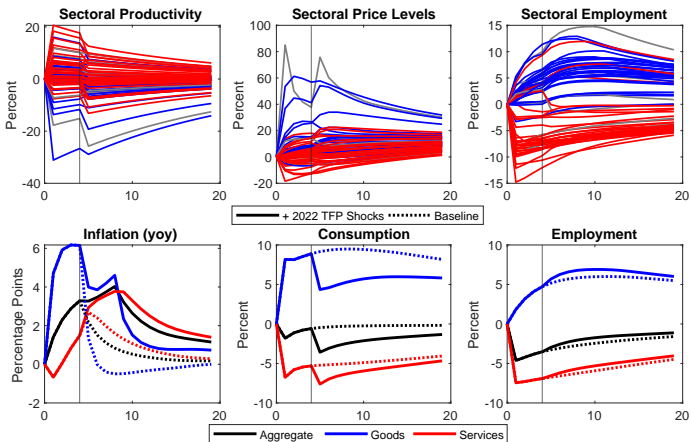
Demand Reallocation During the Great Recession

Large shift in demand during Great Recession boosted inflation, all else equal; consistent with missing disinflation



Additional Productivity Shocks in 2022

Large negative sectoral TFP shocks in 2022:H1 (Oil and Gas, Electronics)
cause inflation to stay high for longer



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Conclusion

- Demand reallocation shock
 1. Explains a large portion of the rise in US inflation
 2. Can also explain cross-sectional developments
- TFP shocks improve cross-sectional fit further
- TFP and labor supply shocks explain less of aggregate inflation, but TFP shocks matter more in 2022
- Unexpected reversal of demand may be inflationary

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Model: Households

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- Time-varying preferences for goods services (reallocation shock)
- Supply labor to firms

Households

Households problem:

$$\max E_t \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{C_{t+i}^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} - \chi_t \frac{(N_{t+i})^{1+\psi}}{1+\psi} \quad (1)$$

where

$$C_t = \left(\frac{C_t^g}{\omega_t} \right)^{\omega_t} \left(\frac{C_t^s}{1-\omega_t} \right)^{1-\omega_t} \quad (2)$$

$$C_t^g = \prod_{i=1}^N \left(\frac{C_{i,t}^g}{\gamma_i^g} \right)^{\gamma_i^g} \text{ and } C_t^s = \prod_{i=1}^N \left(\frac{C_{i,t}^s}{\gamma_i^s} \right)^{\gamma_i^s} \quad (3)$$

subject to

$$P_t C_t + B_{t+1} = W_t N_t + (1 + i_{t-1}) B_t + Profits_t \quad (4)$$

Model: Firms

In each sector there are 3 types of firms:

1. Representative Competitive Producer
2. Monopolistically Competitive Firms
3. Labor Agencies

Model: Monopolistically Competitive Firms

$$Y_t^i = A_t^i \left(\alpha_i^{\frac{1}{\epsilon_Y}} (M_t^i)^{\frac{\epsilon_Y-1}{\epsilon_Y}} + (1 - \alpha_i)^{\frac{1}{\epsilon_Y}} (L_t^i)^{\frac{\epsilon_Y-1}{\epsilon_Y}} \right)^{\frac{\epsilon_Y}{\epsilon_Y-1}} \quad (5)$$

$$M_t^i = \left(\sum_{j=1}^N \Gamma_{i,j}^{\frac{1}{\epsilon_M}} (M_{j,t}^i)^{\frac{\epsilon_M-1}{\epsilon_M}} \right)^{\frac{\epsilon_M}{\epsilon_M-1}} \quad (6)$$

Sector-specific Rotemberg price adjustment costs (κ_i) \rightarrow

$$1 - \epsilon + \epsilon \frac{MC_t^i}{P_t^i} - \kappa_i (\Pi_t^i - 1) \Pi_t^i + E_t \left(M_{t+1} \Pi_{t+1}^i (\Pi_{t+1}^i - 1) \frac{Y_{t+1}^i}{Y_t^i} \right) = 0 \quad (7)$$

Model: Labor Agencies

- Labor agency in each sector hires labor from HHs at W_t and supplies it to monopolistically competitive firms at $P_t^{L,i}$
- Subject to convex hiring costs

$$V_t(L_{t-1}^i) = \max_{L_t^i} P_t^{L,i} L_t^i - W_t L_t^i \left(1 + \mathbb{1}(L_t^i > L_{t-1}^i) \frac{c}{2} \left(\frac{L_t^i}{L_{t-1}^i} - 1 \right)^2 \right) + E_t[M_{t+1} V_{t+1}(L_t^i)] \quad (8)$$

Monetary Policy and Equilibrium

Monetary policy follows a standard Taylor rule.

$$\log(i_t) = \log(R_{ss}) + \phi \log \Pi_t \quad (9)$$

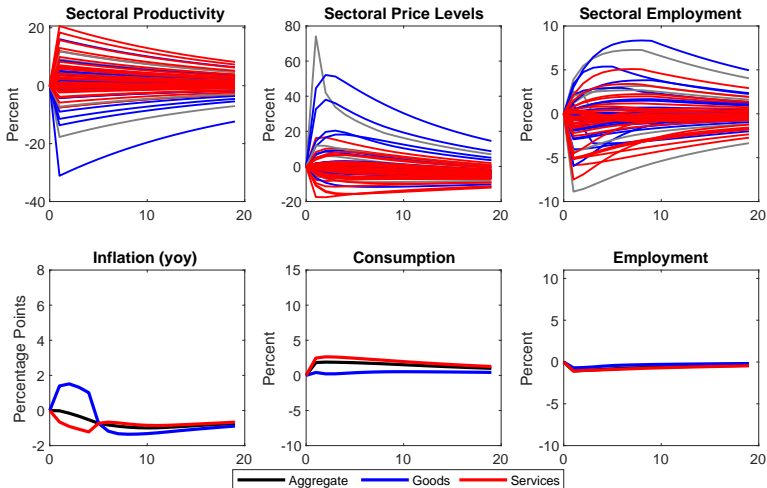
where $\Pi_t = \frac{P_t}{P_{t-1}}$. Goods market clearing:

$$Y_t^i = C_{i,t}^g + C_{i,t}^s + \sum_{j=1}^N M_{i,t}^j \quad \forall i \quad (10)$$

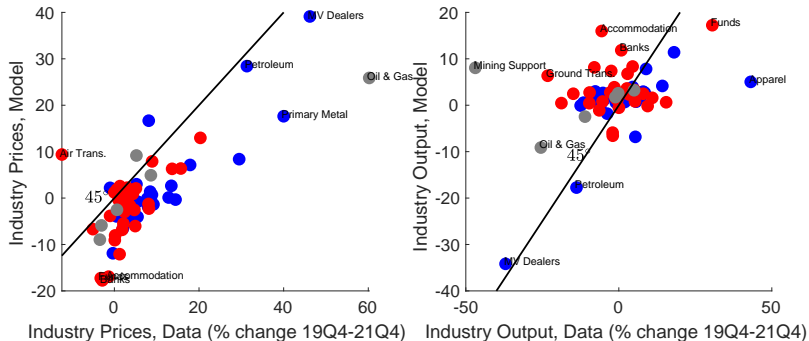
Labor market clearing:

$$\sum_{j=1}^N L_t^i \left(1 + \mathbb{1}(L_t^i > L_{t-1}^i) \frac{c}{2} \left(\frac{L_t^i}{L_{t-1}^i} - 1 \right)^2 \right) = N_t \quad (11)$$

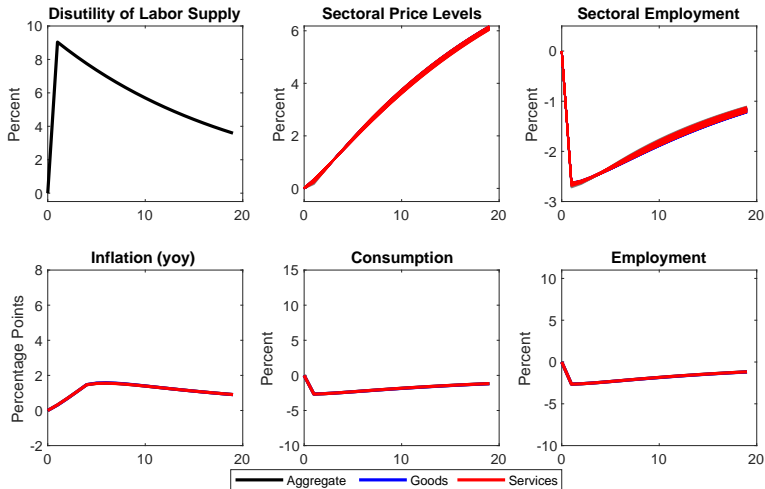
TFP Shocks: Aggregates



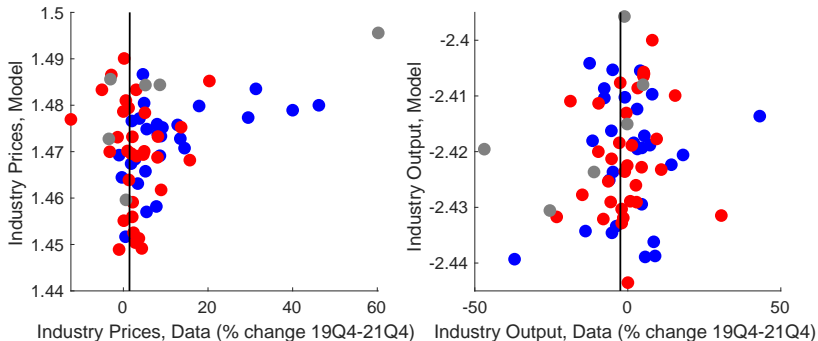
TFP Shocks: Cross-section



Labor Supply Shock: Aggregates



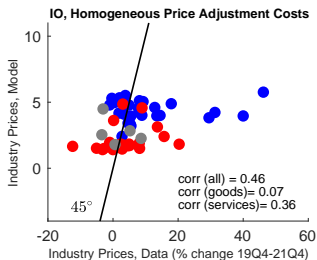
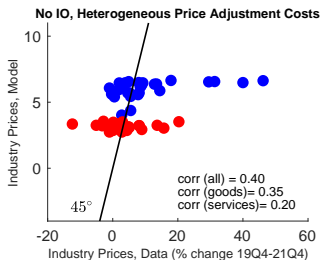
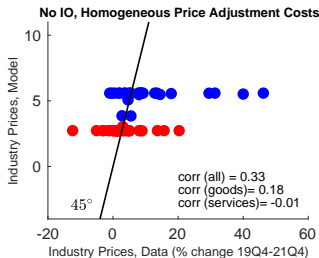
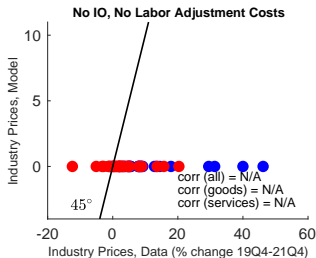
Labor Supply Shock: Cross-section



Parameters

Calibrated Parameters/Shocks	Value	Target/Source
γ	2	Standard
χ	1	Normalization
ψ	1	Standard
ϕ	1.5	Standard
β	0.995	Standard
ϵ	10	Standard
$\bar{\omega}$	0.31	Goods Expenditure Share
α_i	0.11 to 0.83	BEA
κ_i	0.05 to 98	?
ρ_ω	0.975	Path of Goods Expenditure Share
ρ_χ	0.95	Standard
ρ_A	0.95	Standard
Δ_ω	0.045	Δ Goods Expenditure Share
ΔA_t^i	-0.29 to 0.25	Measured Sectoral TFP
Estimated Parameters/Shocks	Value	Target/Source
c	35.6 (19.8)	Estimated (s.e.)
ϵ_M	0.01 (0.25)	Estimated (s.e.)
ϵ_Y	0.59 (0.04)	Estimated (s.e.)
$\Delta\chi$	0.10 (0.04)	Estimated (s.e.)

Both I-O and Het Price Stickiness Important



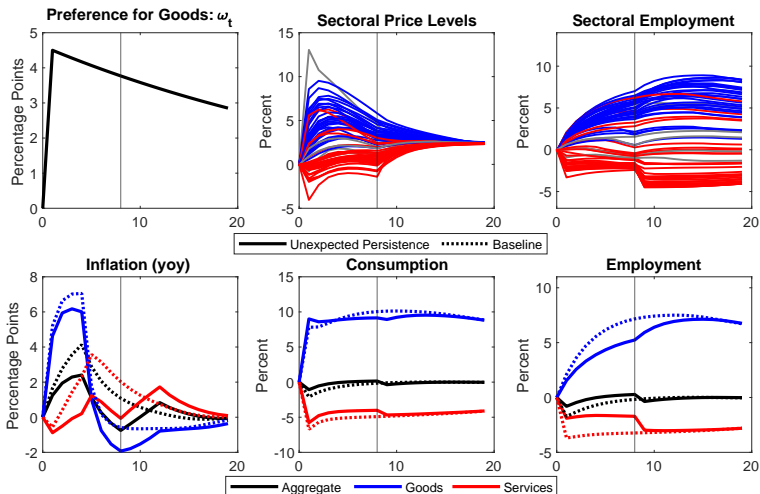
What if demand shift was surprisingly persistent?

- We assumed persistence of demand reallocation shock known on impact
- Now assume that everyone thought it was $\rho = 0.5$ for first 8 quarters
- Households and firms are repeatedly surprised about the persistence for two years (true persistence still $\rho = 0.975$)

→

- **Demand reallocation less inflationary:** services sectors cut employment less and prices more

Unexpected Persistence



COVID Demand Reallocation Shock ($\uparrow \omega_t$)

