# Enhancing Transmission of Monetary Policy Through Deposit Competition

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Croatian National Bank

8th ChaMP Workstream 1 Workshop - Lisbon

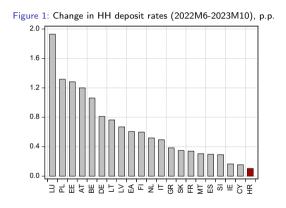
Dec 11, 2025

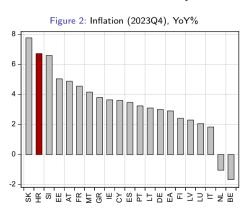
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#### Recent tightening in EA - divergences in transmission across countries

The transmission of monetary policy can vary significantly across countries that form a monetary union





We study how government pressure to increase deposit rates can amplify MP transmission

#### Institutional context

• September 2023 - the **government in talks with banks** to increase deposit rates (similarly in other countries, e.g. Spain, Italy)

• State owned bank responded first and with an increase of 2.5 p.p., kicking off competition for deposits with other banks

"Following constructive discussions with the Ministry of Finance and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the effects of inflation on our citizens... The introduction of such a product will contribute to curbing inflation by immobilizing time-deposited funds while, on the other hand, allowing savers to achieve an attractive return that mitigates the negative effects of inflation on the value of money."

Official press release of HPB

#### This paper explores...

What was the policy's effect on deposit competition?

• Has the policy incentivised savings, thereby affecting consumption and/or portfolio rebalancing?

Were there unintended effects on bank loan supply?

#### Contribution

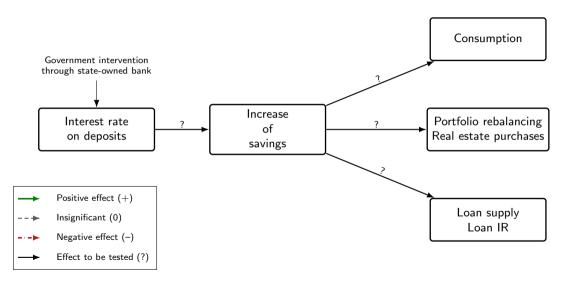
We examine a government policy designed to increase deposit competition and strengthen monetary policy transmission

We identify the portfolio-rebalancing channel of standard monetary policy between term deposits and housing

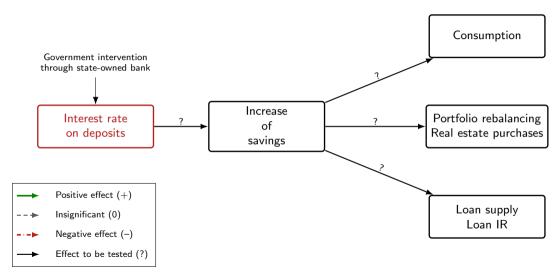
#### Data sources

- Bank-depositor records (Croatian National Bank)
  - Individual balances, interest rates, term deposit dates, depositor characteristics
- 4 House purchase transactions (Croatian Tax Authority)
  - Transaction-level data on real estate purchases
- Loan-level data (Croatian National Bank)
  - Bank-firm and bank-household loans
  - Loan amounts and interest rates (new & outstanding)
- County-level VAT data (Croatian Tax Authority)
  - Daily value and count of transactions

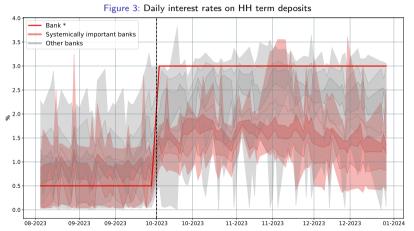
#### Theoretical framework



#### Effects on deposit rates



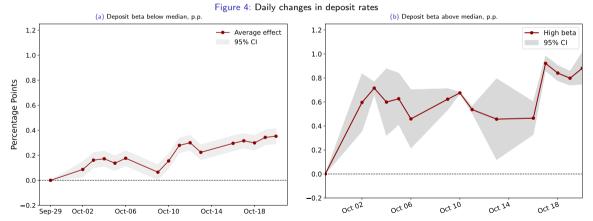
## The state owned bank strongly increased it's deposit rates in October 2023...



Notes: Bank quintile groups are shown in red and grey. Bank\* refers to the interest rate of a systemically important bank derived from the publicly available Excerpts from decisions on interest rate levels (12-month time deposits in euro). As a consequence, this series does not exhibit usual daily oscillations that can be caused by different characteristics of deposits and special arrangements with individual clients. The shown group of systemically important banks excudes the Bank\* Sources: Households Deposit and Credit registry: excerpts from decisions on interest rate levels for the Bank\* \( \text{ } \tex

#### Effects on deposit rates I.

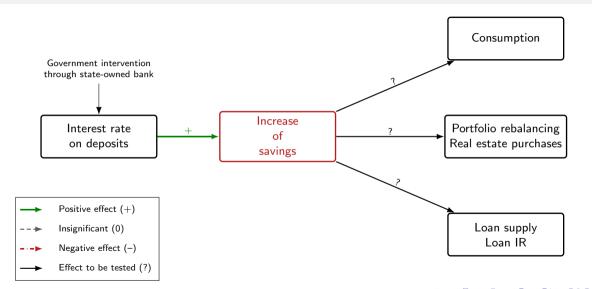
- Evidence of spillover effect on other banks
  - → Banks with higher market power adjusted deposit rates less



Note: Each dot in graph represents one business day. Impulse responses are calculated using local projections method, accounting for deposit size, within a bank. The sample excludes the Bank\*. Source: Households Deposit and Credit registry.

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## Effects on deposit inflows/outflows



Dec 11, 2025

#### Effects on deposit inflows/outflows

#### Significant increase of inflows in term deposits

- Mainly conversion from overnight to term deposits (left figure)
- Overnight to term conversions and transfers to other banks fell after the initial surge

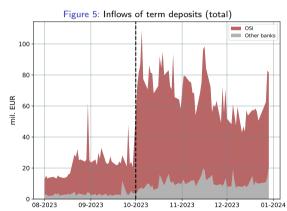
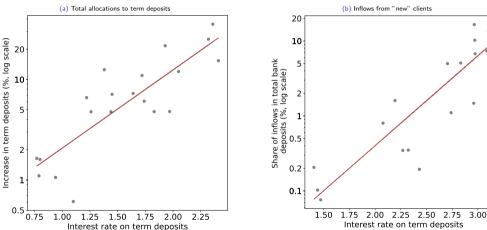


Figure 6: Inflows of term deposits (new clients) OSI Other banks 20 15 mil. EUR 07-2023 08-2023 09-2023 10-2023 11-2023 12-2023 01-2024

Note: OSI denotes systemically important banks (including the Bank\*). "New clients" denote persons holding new deposits in a bank in which they previously held no transaction or savings accounts. Source: Households Deposit and Credit registry.

## Banks which chose high(er) interest rates attracted more term deposits and new clients

Figure 7: Relationship between interest rates and deposit inflows

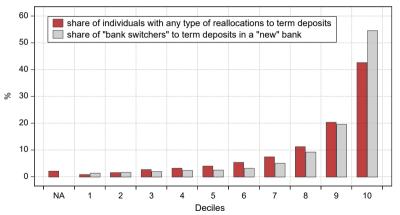


Note: "New clients" denote persons holding new deposits in a bank in which they previously held no transaction or savings accounts. Observed period: June – December 2023. Source: Households Deposit and Credit registry.

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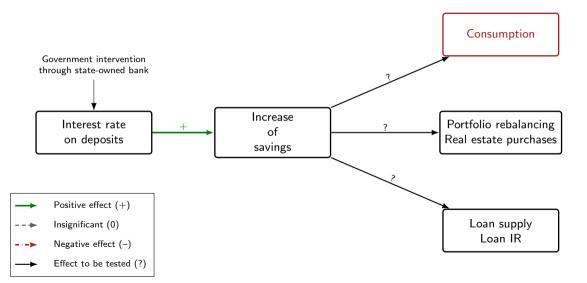
Absolute numbers | "Wealth" and interest rates | Interest rate sensitivity regression | Shares of term deposits in "wealth" | Reallocated amounts by deciles

Figure 8: Reallocation to term deposits across "wealth" deciles



Note: All individuals are allocated into deciles based on their total liquidity in a bank, which serves as a proxy for wealth. Total liquidity is measured as the sum of overnight and term deposits pre each individual, across all banks, as of June 30, 2023. The first decile includes individuals with the lowest liquidity, while the tenth decile includes those with the highest. Source: Household Deposit and Credit Registry.

#### Effects on consumption



#### Effects on consumption - the idea...

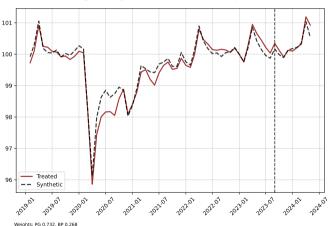
#### Does consumption fall more in counties with larger increases in term-deposit shares?

- **Treatment**: SOB's rate increase (October 2023)
- Treated group: Counties with top quartile increase in time-deposit share
- Control group: Counties with bottom quartile increase in time-deposit share
- Empirical strategy: Synthetic control (DiD is not suitable as pre-trends are not parallel)
   DID estimation
- **Identification assumption**: Parallel trends between treated and synthetic control would continue in the absence of the event

## Effects on consumption - synthetic control (pooled treated group)

#### No effects on consumption!

Figure 9: Synthetic control for consumption



▶ SC for each county

Treatment: share

► Excluding donors

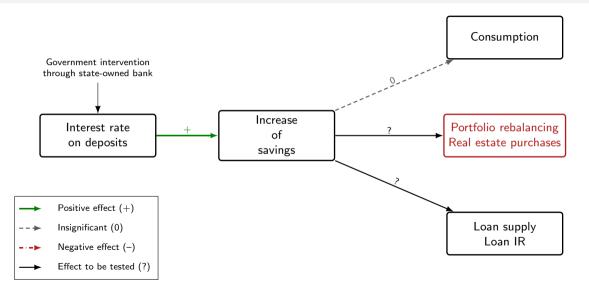
► Monte Carlo resampled

▶ Sample from 2021

▶ Split by median

▶ Placebo tests

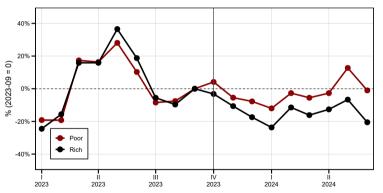
## Effects on portfolio rebalancing



### Did this induce the rich to rebalance their portfolios?

Liquidity-rich individuals reduced their house purchases by around 13% (on average)

Figure 10: House Purchases (values) - liquidity-rich vs liquidity-poor



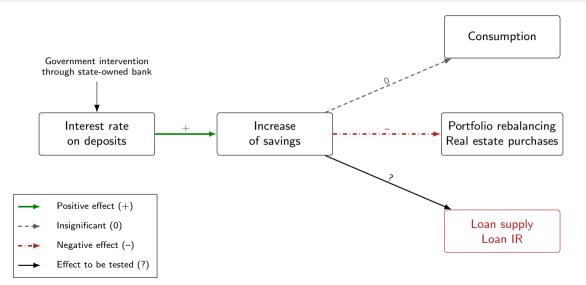
Note: "rich" denotes counterparties that are above the median by liquidity in a bank (measured as the sum of all deposits on the 30th of June). The lines in the figure denote log changes compared to September 2023. The vertical line denotes the event of an increase in deposit rates by Government banks. Sources: Tax Administration for data about house purchases at counterparty level; Household deposit and credit registry for data about total liquidity of the counterpart.



	FIRS	FIRST STAGE		IV	IV	
	(1) INTEREST RATE	(2) In(T. DEPOSIT)	(3) HOUSE PURCHASE	(4) HOUSE PURCHASE	(5) HOUSE PURCHASE	
Post × Rich	0.08882*** (0.00044)	0.39672*** (0.00251)	-0.00024*** (0.00008)			
Interest rate				-0.00272*** (0.00093)		
In(T. DEPOSIT)					-0.00061*** (0.00021)	
Counterparty FE	×	×	×	×	×	
County x Time FE	×	×	×	×	×	
$R^2$	0.528	0.565	0.505	-	-	
Obs.	6,367,562	6,367,562	6,367,562	6,367,562	6,367,562	

Note: Std. Errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.001. Obs. in Millions (M). House purchase is a dummy variable with value 1 if counterparty purchased a house in specific time period and 0 otherwise. "Rich" counterparties are those with total liquidity in bank account (overnight + term deposits) above median. Standard errors are clustered at counterparty level. Sources: Tax Administration for data about house purchases at counterparty level; Household deposit and credit registry for data about total liquidity of the counterpart.

## Effects on loan supply



#### Impact on loan supply and interest rates

#### Impact on the banking system

Liquidity reshuffling and higher deposit costs, but profits changed moderately

▶ Redistribution of excess liquidity ▶ Interest rates ▶ Impact on RoE ▶ Deposit maturity composition

#### Outcomes:

Household & corporate loan volumes and interest rates

#### Treatment variables:

Δ HH deposit funding costs and Ex-ante deposit beta

#### Identification strategy:

- Assumes deposit competition is the sole loan-supply shock (Degryse et al., 2019)
- We find no significant impact on lending and interest rates Planact on lending

#### Conclusion

- We evaluate the effects of a government policy that increased competition for deposits and transmission of monetary policy through deposit rates
- Banks with lower market power adjusted deposit rates more
- Liquidity-rich individuals drove deposit flows, shifting funds to banks offering higher rates
- We show no discernible effects on consumption, but we document substantial portfolio rebalancing from housing towards term deposits
- Loan-supply was unaffected due to the characteristics of the banking system

## Thank you!

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## Appendix

## Relevant Literature: Key Papers Description

#### State-Owned Banks and Monetary Policy

- Carvalho (2014):
  - State-owned banks direct credit to politically aligned local governments before elections.
  - Beneficiary firms increase employment, especially with strong incumbent opposition.
  - State banks also lend more during downturns, cushioning shocks.
- Deng et al. (2015):
  - State-owned banks in China can both amplify and dampen monetary policy effects, depending on political directives and economic conditions.
  - Their lending behavior significantly influences credit allocation, impacting sectors like real estate and state-owned enterprises.

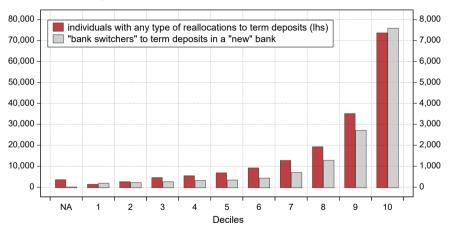
#### Portfolio Rebalancing and Monetary Policy

- Agarwal et al. (2020):
  - When interest rates fall, households increase consumption by 6% and shift 36% more of their wealth into risky assets after term deposits expire.
  - New investors tend to invest in high-beta and volatile stocks, indicating a "reach for yield" behavior.

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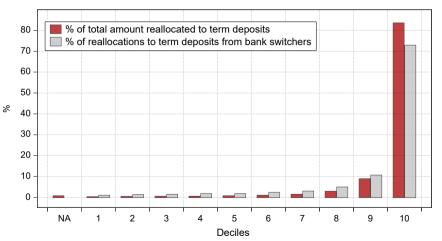
Figure 11: Reallocation to term deposits across "wealth" deciles



Note: All individuals are allocated into deciles based on their total liquidity in a bank, which serves as a proxy for wealth. Total liquidity is measured as the sum of overnight and term deposits pre each individual, across all banks, as of June 30, 2023. The first decile includes individuals with the lowest liquidity, while the tenth decile includes those with the highest. Source: Household Denosit and Credit Resistro.



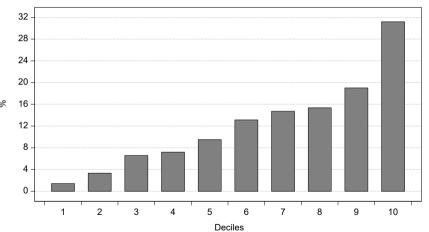
Figure 12: Reallocation to term deposits across "wealth" deciles



Note: All individuals are allocated into deciles based on their total liquidity in a bank, which serves as a proxy for wealth. Total liquidity is measured as the sum of overnight and term deposits pre each individual, across all banks, as of June 30, 2023. The first decile includes individuals with the lowest liquidity, while the tenth decile includes those with the highest. Source: Household Deposit and Credit Registry.



Figure 13: "Savings rate" across "wealth" deciles (June, 2023)



Note: All individuals are allocated into deciles based on their total liquidity in a bank, which serves as a proxy for wealth. Total liquidity is measured as the sum of overnight and term deposits pre each individual, across all banks, as of June 30, 2023. The first decile includes individuals with the lowest liquidity, while the tenth decile includes those with the highest. Proxy for savings rate is calculated as term deposits over total liquidity in a bank. Source: Household Deposit and Credit Registry.

#### Interest rates sensitivity - all depositors



		POST				INTEREST RATE			
	<10K	10K-100K	100K-500K	>500K log(am	<10K nount)	10K-100K	100K-500K	>500K	
POST	0.025*** (0.001)	0.416*** (0.005)	1.169*** (0.024)	1.520*** (0.117)					
Interest rate					3.194*** (0.009)	3.408*** (0.009)	3.561*** (0.019)	3.784*** (0.068)	
Counterparty FE	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	
R <sup>2</sup> Obs.	0.731 5.0M	0.704 1.1M	0.678 107K	0.661 6.4K	0.840 5.0M	0.829 1.1M	0.825 107K	0.832 6.4K	

Note: Std. Errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.001. "Post" is a dummy for post-policy period. Interest rate regression controls for same set of fixed effects. Amount is log of transaction value. Observations rounded for readability.

#### Interest rates sensitivity - term deposits only



		PC	OST			INTEREST RATE			
	<10K	10K-100K	100K-500K	>500K log(am	<10K nount)	10K-100K	100K-500K	>500K	
POST	0.151*** (0.007)	0.081*** (0.006)	0.135*** (0.016)	0.399*** (0.068)					
Interest rate					0.253*** (0.009)	0.228*** (0.005)	0.310*** (0.010)	0.489*** (0.044)	
Counterparty FE	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	
R <sup>2</sup> Obs.	0.977 118.7K	0.935 152.8K	0.873 28.7K	0.871 2.1K	0.977 118.7K	0.939 152.8K	0.887 28.7K	0.893 2.1K	

Note: Std. Errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.001. "Post" is a dummy for post-policy period. Interest rate regression controls for same set of fixed effects. Amount is log of transaction value. Observations rounded for readability.



	FIRS	ST STAGE	REDUCED FORM	IV	IV		
	(1) INTEREST RATE	(2) In(T. DEPOSIT)	(3) In(HH PURCHASE)	(4) In(HH PURCHASE)	(5) In(HH PURCHASE		
Post x Rich	0.08845*** (0.00044)	0.39502*** (0.00251)	-0.00249*** (0.00093)				
Interest rate				-0.02815*** (0.01057)			
In(T. DEPOSIT)					-0.00630*** (0.00237)		
Counterparty FE	×	×	×	×	×		
Country x Time FE	×	X	×	×	X		
Income × Time FE	×	×	X	X	×		
$\mathbb{R}^2$	0.528	0.565	0.505	-	_		
Observations	6,367,562	6,367,562	6,367,562	6,367,562	6,367,562		

Note: Std. Errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.001. Obs. in Millions (M). "Rich" counterparties are those with total liquidity in bank account (overnight + term deposits) above median. Standard errors are clustered at counterparty level. Sources: Tax Administration for data about house purchases at counterparty level; Household deposit and credit registry for data about total liquidity of the counterpart.



	FIRS	ST STAGE	REDUCED FORM	IV	IV	
	(1) INTEREST RATE	(2) In(T. DEPOSIT)	(3) HOUSE PURCHASE	(4) HOUSE PURCHASE	(5) HOUSE PURCHASE	
Post × Rich	0.08845*** (0.00044)	0.39502*** (0.00251)	-0.00023*** (0.00008)			
Interest rate				-0.00256*** (0.00094)		
In(T. DEPOSIT)					-0.00094*** (0.00021)	
Counterparty FE	×	×	×	×	×	
County x Time FE	×	X	×	×	×	
Income $\times$ Time FE	×	×	×	×	×	
$R^2$	0.528	0.565	0.505	-	-	
Obs.	6,367,562	6,367,562	6,367,562	6,367,562	6,367,562	

Note: Std. Errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p < 0.001. Obs. in Millions (M). House purchase is a dummy variable with value 1 if counterparty purchased a house in specific time period and 0 otherwise. "Rich" counterparties are those with total liquidity in bank account (overnight + term deposits) above median. Standard errors are clustered at counterparty level. Sources: Tax Administration for data about house purchases at counterparty level; Household deposit and credit registry for data about total liquidity of the counterpart.



	FIRS	ST STAGE	REDUCED FORM	IV		
	(1) INTEREST RATE	(2) In(T. DEPOSIT)	(3) HOUSE PURCHASE	(4) HOUSE PURCHASE	(5) HOUSE PURCHASE	
Post x Rich	0.04215*** (0.00037)	0.21743*** (0.00240)	-0.00030*** (0.00009)			
Interest rate				-0.00702*** (0.00207)		
In(T. DEPOSIT)				, ,	-0.00136*** (0.00040)	
Counterparty FE	×	×	×	×	×	
County x Time FE	×	×	×	×	×	
Income x Time FE	×	×	×	×	×	
Bank x Time FE	×	×	×	×	×	
$\mathbb{R}^2$	0.515	0.537	0.505	-	_	
Obs.	4,903,274	4,903,274	4,903,274	4,903,274	4,903,274	

Note: Std. Errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p < 0.001. Obs. in Millions (M). House purchase is a dummy variable with value 1 if counterparty purchased a house in specific time period and 0 otherwise. "Rich" counterparties are those with total liquidity in bank account (overnight + term deposits) above median. Standard errors are clustered at counterparty level. Sources: Tax Administration for data about house purchases at counterparty level; Household deposit and credit registry for data about total liquidity of the counterpart.



	FIRS	ST STAGE	REDUCED FORM	IV	IV	
	(1) INTEREST RATE	(2) In(T. DEPOSIT)	(3) HOUSE PURCHASE	(4) HOUSE PURCHASE	(5) HOUSE PURCHASE	
Post × Rich	0.08895*** (0.00044)	0.39745*** (0.00251)	-0.00020*** (0.00007)			
Interest rate				-0.00228*** (0.00079)		
In(T. DEPOSIT)				, ,	-0.00051*** (0.00018)	
Counterparty FE	×	×	×	×	×	
County x Time FE	×	X	×	×	×	
Income $\times$ Time FE	×	×	×	×	×	
$R^2$	0.528	0.565	0.507	-	-	
Obs.	6,357,666	6,357,666	6,357,666	6,357,666	6,357,666	

Note: Std. Errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.001. Obs. in Millions (M). House purchase is a dummy variable with value 1 if counterparty purchased a house in specific time period and 0 otherwise. "Rich" counterparties are those with total liquidity in bank account (overnight + term deposits) above median. Standard errors are clustered at counterparty level. Sources: Tax Administration for data about house purchases at counterparty level; Household deposit and credit registry for data about total liquidity of the counterpart.



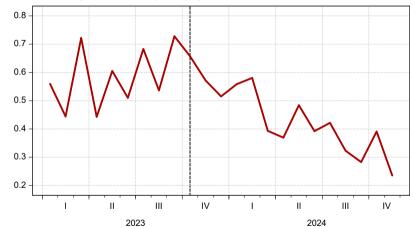
	(1)	(2) Dependent v	(3) variable: Ho	(4) use purchase	(5)
	Baseline	•	Decile >7	<u>'</u>	Decile >9
Post × "Rich"	-0.00024*** (0.00008)	-0.00009 (0.00013)	-0.00006 (0.00010)	-0.00010 (0.00009)	-0.00011 (0.00008)
$Post  \times  Wealth$		-0.00019 (0.00015)	-0.00031** (0.00013)	-0.00036** (0.00016)	-0.00065*** (0.00024)
Counterparty FE	×	Х	Х	Х	×
County $\times$ Time FE	×	X	X	X	×
R <sup>2</sup> Obs.	0.505 6,367,562	0.505 6,367,562	0.505 6,367,562	0.505 6,367,562	0.505 6,367,562

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. \*p < 0.10, \*\*\*p < 0.05, \*\*\*\*p < 0.01. All regressions include the listed fixed effects. Observations reported in millions.

#### Probability of buying a house...



Figure 14: Probability of buying a house, for "rich" individuals



Note: "Rich" individuals are those with more than 10K EUR of total liquidity in a bank, which serves as a proxy for wealth. Total liquidity is measured as the sum of overnight and term deposits pre each individual, across all banks, as of June 30, 2023. Probability is calculated as share of "rich" individuals who bought a house in particular month. Source: Tax Administration for data about house purchases and Household Deposit and Credit Registry for calculation of total liquidity.

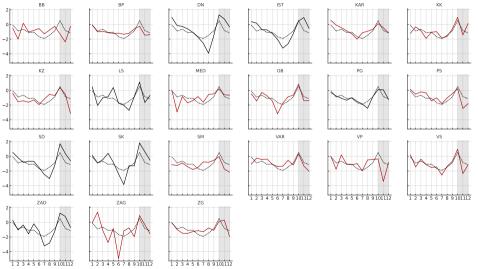
%

#### Treated and control counties Pack

Change in share of term deposits (in total deposits, %) from 30.09.2023. to 31.12.2023.

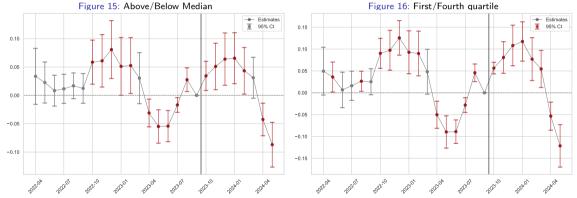
County	Change	Treated median	Treated Q1-Q4		
Koprivničko-križevačka	6.37	1	1		
Šibensko-kninska	6.22	1	1		
Splitsko-dalmatinska	4.87	1	1		
Dubrovačko-neretvanska	4.59	1	1		
Zadarska	4.49	1	1		
Istarska	3.82	1	1		
Grad Zagreb	3.74	1			
Karlovačka	3.71	1			
Osječko-baranjska	3.57	1			
Varaždinska	3.42	1			
Meimurska	2.98	1			
Zagrebačka	2.95	0			
Virovitičko-podravska	2.87	0			
Ličko-senjska	2.49	0			
Požeško-slavonska	2.49	0			
Primorsko-goranska	2.38	0	0		
Vukovarsko-srijemska	2.36	0	0		
Krapinsko-zagorska	2.14	0	0		
Brodsko-posavska	1.82	0	0		
Bjelovarsko-bilogorska	1.40	0	0		
Sisačko-moslavačka	1.23	0	0		

# Seasonal chart of change in share of term deposits •••••



# Difference-in-differences estimation for consumption I. • Back

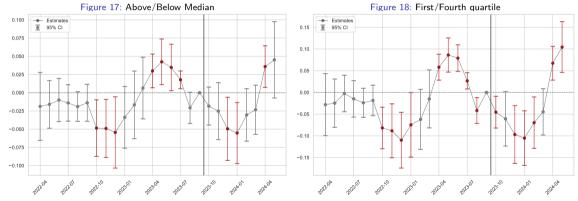
#### Treated-control counties split by: change in share of term deposits



Note: consumption is seasonally adjusted at the county level. The specification includes county fixed effects and controls for unemployment and income. Standard errors are clustered at the county level.

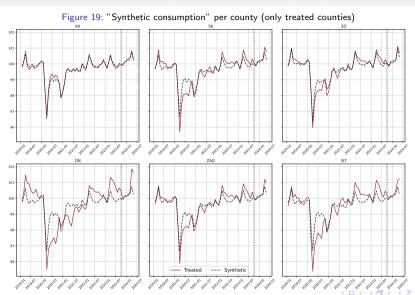
# Difference-in-differences estimation for consumption II.

#### Treated-control counties split by: share of "liquidity rich" households



Note: consumption is seasonally adjusted at the county level. The specification includes county fixed effects and controls for unemployment and income. Standard errors are clustered at the county level.

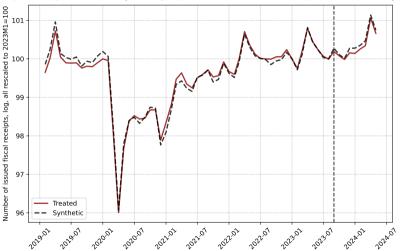
# Synthetic Control on each county from treated group ••••



#### Synthetic Control: treatment - share of rich households •••••

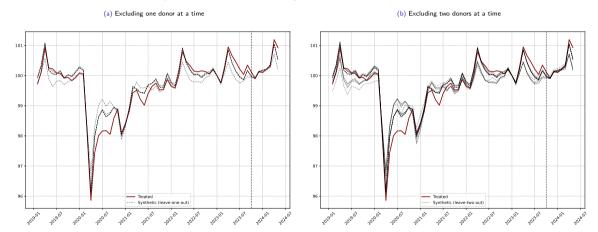


Figure 20: Synthetic control (treated group - counties with share of rich people above median)



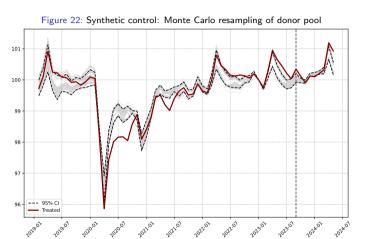
## Synthetic Control: excluding counties from donor pool ....

Figure 21: Robustness to control group specification I: Donor exclusion



Note: This figure shows robustness checks where the synthetic control is re-estimated multiple times while systematically altering the donor pool. In panel (a), each control county is excluded one at a time ("leave-one-out"), and a new synthetic control is computed for the treated group. In panel (b), all unordered pairs of counties are excluded ("leave-two-out"), and the model is re-estimated accordingly. This ensures that results are not driven by a single donor or pair of donors. 4日 > 4周 > 4目 > 4目 > 3目 \* 900

### Synthetic Control: Monte Carlo resampling of donor pool ....

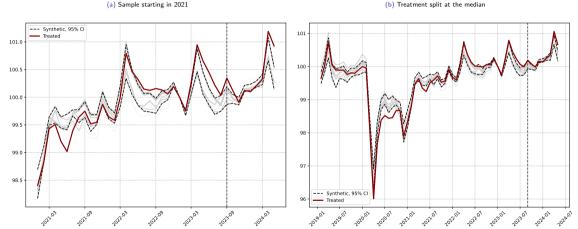


Note: The figure is based on Monte Carlo resampling of the donor pool. At each iteration, a new set of donor counties is drawn with replacement, and a synthetic control is estimated. The figure summarizes the distribution of post-treatment effects across 1,000 such re-estimations, providing a reference for how sensitive results are to alternative donor compositions.

### Synthetic Control: alternative pre-period and treatment specification



Figure 23: Robustness to alternative pre-period and treatment specification

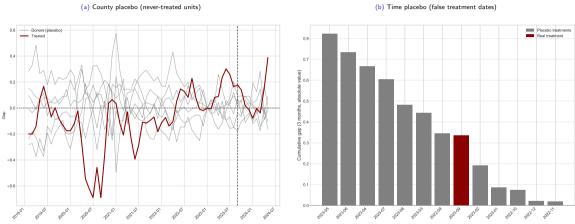


Note: This figure shows two alternative specifications. Panel (a) shifts the sample start date to 2021, reducing the length of the pre-treatment period and re-estimating the synthetic control accordingly. Panel (b) alters the treatment assignment rule; instead of quartile splits, counties are divided at the median change in term-deposit share, enlarging the donor pool. Both specifications are used to test sensitivity of results to sample timing and treatment definition.

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#### Synthetic Control: Placebo tests Placebo

Figure 24: Placebo tests



Note: This figure presents placebo tests. Panel (a) applies the synthetic control procedure to counties that were never treated (all from the donor pool), generating a distribution of placebo effects to benchmark the treated effect against potential false positives. Panel (b) performs placebo-in-time tests by assigning false treatment dates to the actual treated group and re-estimating the effect (this is done 12 times; for each month in the year before the treatment); the absolute effect at the true treatment date is then compared to this placebo distribution.

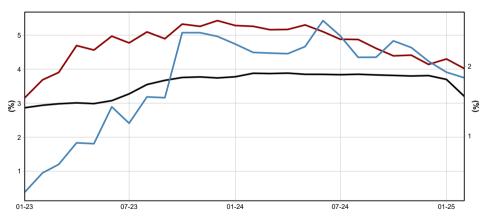
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#### Interest rates on new business



Figure 25: Interest rates on new loans and deposits

- Corporate Loans - Housing Loans - Deposits - Households (rhs)

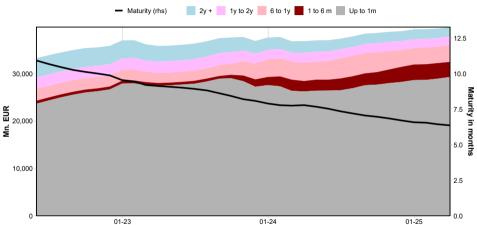


Note: The plot shows the weighted averages of interest rates on new business for corporate and household lending, as well as for new household deposits.

## Maturity structure of household deposits



Figure 26: Maturity structure of household deposits

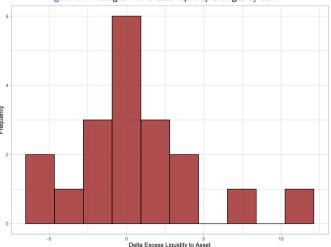


Note: The maturity indicator is calculated by taking a weighted average of deposit maturities within each maturity bucket. This provides an approximate measure of the average remaining time to maturity of household term deposits over time.

# Excess liquidity changes



Figure 27: Histogram of excess liquidity changes by bank



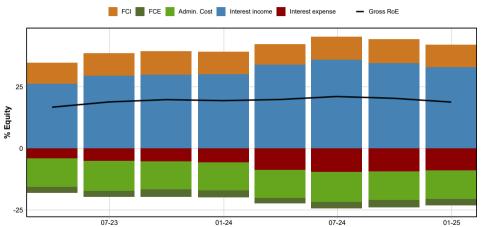
Note: The figure shows the distribution of the differences in the ratio of excess liquidity to total asset



## **Bank Profitability**



Figure 28: Bank PnL



Note: The chart shows a decomposition of gross return on equity (RoE) into its key income and cost components. Bars represent the contributions of interest income, interest expense, Fee and comission income/expenses, and administrative costs to RoE. The black line tracks the gross gross RoE over time.

#### Impact on lending



	Firms				Households			
Treatments:	Deposit beta		$\Delta$ Cost of funding		Deposit beta		Δ Cost of funding	
Dep. var.:	In(Loan Amt)	Interest rate	In(Loan Amt)	Interest rate	In(Loan Amt)	Interest rate	In(Loan Amt)	Interest rate
$POST \times Treatment$	0.121 (0.188)	0.589 (0.770)	0.002 (0.039)	0.216 (0.300)	-0.251 (0.832)	0.266 (0.831)	0.627* (0.303)	0.510 (0.446)
Bank controls ILSt / LIt	YES YES	YES YES	YES YES	YES YES	YES YES	YES YES	YES YES	YES YES
Bank $\times$ Loc. Adj. $R^2$	YES 0.920	YES 0.894	YES 0.920	YES 0.894	YES 0.232	YES 0.484	YES 0.233	YES 0.485
Observations	527,941	527,941	527,941	527,941	34,448	34,448	34,448	34,448

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

 $ILSt = Income \times Location \times Sector \times time fixed effects (firms); <math>LIt = Location \times Income \times time fixed effects (households).$