

GVC exporters' performance during the COVID-19 pandemic: the role of supply bottlenecks



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Motivation and findings

- COVID-19 crisis results in a combination of demand & supply shocks, domestically & internationally. Supply value chain trade as a source of vulnerability vs source of resilience
- Our question: how different dimensions of GVC involvement affected exporters' performance during the pandemic?
- Main findings:
 - ✓ GVC participation increased firms' vulnerability during the pandemic, the negative impact of supply disruptions being higher for firms located relatively more downstream
 - ✓ Firms benefited from diversification for core inputs

The reference literature

- Role of globalisation via final and intermediate goods trade in the propagation of the economic impact of the pandemic (Kohlscheen, Mojon, and Rees, 2020; Sforza and Steininger, 2020; Bonadio et al. 2021, Eppinger et al., 2020)
- Heterogeneity of firms' exposure to the pandemic, depending on the extent and nature of their involvement in international trade:
 - Di Giovanni, Levchenko and Mejean (2020), Bricogne et al. (2021): predominance of a few number of large incumbent exporters in driving the trade collapse in April/May 2020. The higher vulnerability of such firms to external shocks has significant macroeconomic implications as they account for a large share of aggregate economic activity
 - Lafrogne-Joussier, Martin and Mejean (2022): early lockdown in China as a natural experiment. Over the first half of 2020, firms sourcing inputs from China experienced a drop in exports compared to GVC firms importing inputs from countries other than China. Having a geographically diversified sourcing of inputs does not mitigate the fall in exports.

What we do

- Monthly firm-product-country level data for France, from Customs until end-2021. Three phases of the pandemic:
 - ✓ February April 2020
 - ✓ May August 2020
 - ✓ September 2020 December 2021
- Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on:
 - ✓ firms' exports
 - ✓ probability of survival in the export market
- Combine Customs data with Business Registry data to assess the performance of GVC exporters depending on:
 - ✓ their level of inventory
 - ✓ their productivity
- Interact GVC participation with a firm-level indicator of upstreamness (computed following Antràs et al., 2012; Chor, Manova and Yu, 2021)
- Investigate the role of diversification as in Lafrogne-Joussier et al. (2022), finer definition of "core" products
- Impact of GVC participation depending on firms' reliance on "strategic" inputs

Methodology and identification strategy

- Methodology: difference-in-differences, logit model, and event study
- Our sample: continuous exporters between July and December 2019
- Treatment period: Feb. 2020 Dec. 2021
- **Treated group**: GVC firms exporting firms that have imported intermediate inputs at least once over the six months before the pandemic

		Firm median export value in €	Number of firms (% of total)	Nominal Exports (% of total)
	All	1,505,912	25,801 (25%)	474,252,965,888 (97%)
Continuous	GVC	1,858,366	20,516 (20%)	456,644,001,792 (93%)
	non-GVC	771,670	5,285 (5%)	17,608,964,605 (4%)
	All	11,998	76,182 (75%)	14,756,839,424 (3%)
Occasional	GVC	18,000	29,688 (29%)	9,706,505,216 (2%)
	non-GVC	9,627	46,494 (46%)	5,050,334,208 (1%)

Exports by GVC status

COVID-19 pandemic (January 2020=100)

Global financial crisis (August 2008=100)



Difference-in-differences, effect of GVC participation

 $\ln Export_{it} = \alpha + \beta \, \text{GVC}_i * COVID19_t + FE_i + FE_t + \varepsilon_{it}$

-	ln Export _{it}	(1) Main	(2) By phase	(3) With treatment group and treatment period
-	GVC _i *COVID19 _t	(-0.0768*** (0.00967)		
	GVC _i *COVID19phase1 _t		-0.0382*** (0.0119)	-0.0412* (0.0221)
	GVC _i *COVID19phase2 _t		-0.0392*** (0.0117)	-0.0458** (0.0194)
	GVC _i *COVID19phase3 _t		(-0.0944^{***}) (0.0112)	(-0.0932^{***})
	GVC _i			1.069^{***} (0.00710)
	COVID19phase1t			-0.137*** (0.0199)
	COVID19phase2t			-0.146*** (0.0174)
	COVID19phase3t			0.0821*** (0.0104)
	Constant	(0.00364)	11.67*** (0.00365)	10.80*** (0.00636)
Robustness checks	Observations R-squared	1,156,272 0.823	1,156,272 0.823	1,156,272 0.034
	FIRM FE	YES	YES	NO
By firm-characteristics -	Time PE	165	125	INU

Event study, effect of GVC participation



Probability of survival in the export market, effect of GVC participation

 $\mathbb{1}_{it} = \alpha + \sum_{j=-12}^{24} \beta_j COVID19_{jt} * GVC_i + FE_i + FE_t + \varepsilon_{it}$



Effect of being downstream or upstream

 $\ln Export_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{ GVC}_i * \text{ GVC position above median}_i * COVID19_t + \beta_2 \text{ GVC}_i * (1 - \text{GVC position above median}_i) * COVID19_t + FE_i + FE_t + \varepsilon_{it}$

	(1)	(2)
ln Export _{it}	General	By phase
GVC _i *Downstream(below median) _i *COVID19 _t	-0.0997*** (0.0120)	
GVC _i *Upstream(above median) _i *COVID19 _t	-0.0607*** (0.0114)	
GVC _i *Downstream(below median) _i *COVID19phase1 _t		-0.0747*** (0.0144)
GVC _i *Downstream(below median) _i *COVID19phase2 _t		-0.0513*** (0.0144)
GVC _i *Downstream(below median) _i *COVID19phase3 _t		-0.117*** (0.0139)
GVC _i *Upstream(above median) _i *COVID19phase1 _t		0.000570 (0.0140)
GVC _i *Upstream(above median) _i *COVID19phase2 _t		-0.0547*** (0.0138)
GVC _i *Upstream(above median) _i *COVID19phase3 _t		-0.0744*** (0.0131)
Constant	11.60*** (0.00405)	11.60*** (0.00406)
Observations R-squared Firm FE	1,083,094 0.819 YES	1,083,094 0.819 YES
THIC FE	165	165

Other upstreamness measures

Effect of diversification of sourcing countries for core products

 $\ln Export_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{ GVC}_i * COVID19_t + \beta_2 \text{ GVC}_i * \text{ DiversificationCoreProduct}_i * COVID19_t + FE_i + FE_t + \varepsilon_{it}$

In Export.	(1) 1%	(2) 5%	(3) 10%	(4) 15%	(5) 20%	(6) 25%	(7) 30%
III Exporta	170	570	10%	1070	2070	2570	5010
GVC _i *DiversificationCoreProduct _i *COVID19 _t	-0.0194	0.0100	0.0102	0.0191*	0.0165*	0.0239**	0.0213**
	(0.0164)	(0.0107)	(0.00988)	(0.00979)	(0.00991)	(0.0102)	(0.0104)
GVC _i *COVID19 _t	-0.0747***	-0.0798***	-0.0812***	-0.0866***	-0.0863***	-0.0916***	-0.0909***
	(0.00980)	(0.0102)	(0.0106)	(0.0109)	(0.0113)	(0.0116)	(0.0120)
Constant	11.67***	11.67***	11.67***	11.67***	11.67***	11.67***	11.67***
	(0.00364)	(0.00364)	(0.00364)	(0.00364)	(0.00364)	(0.00364)	(0.00364)
Observations	1,156,272	1,156,272	1,156,272	1,156,272	1,156,272	1,156,272	1,156,272
R-squared	0.823	0.823	0.823	0.823	0.823	0.823	0.823
Firm FE	YES						
Time FE	YES						

Diff-in-diff by phase

Effect of importing strategic products

0.10 0.05 0.00 -0.05 -0.10 -0.15 -0.20 -0.25 -0.30 Jan-19 Jul-19 Jan-20 Jul-20 Jan-21 Jul-21

Strategic

Non strategic



95% confidence interval

——GVCparticipation*UPSTR/DWSTR*time FE

Products are assessed as strategic based on 3 indicators: concentration, measured by the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index and the market share of the extra-EU supplying countries; demand importance, calculated as the share of extra-EU imports in total EU imports; substitutability, calculated as the ratio of extra-EU imports to total EU exports Diff-in-diff

Main findings

- Participation in GVC increased firms' vulnerability during the pandemic, in terms of both export performance and probability of survival in the export market
- Compared to non-GVC exporters, GVC firms were hit harder during the supply bottleneck period, the negative impact of supply disruptions being higher for firms located relatively more downstream
- More diversified sourcing networks for core imported inputs partially shielded companies from shocks



Thank you

Background slides

A view to the pandemic cycle

GDP vs Export growth, France and EA (y-o-y percentage change)



Sources: Eurostat and ECB calculations.

Note: Gross domestic product at market prices, Domestic currency (incl. conversion to current currency made using a fix parity), Chain linked volume (rebased), Non transformed data, Calendar and seasonally adjusted data.

A view to the pandemic cycle



Oxford Stringency Index for France's top 5 import partners

Sources: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker and ECB calculations. Note: Monthly averages of daily indexes. The index records the strictness of 'lockdown style' policies that primarily restrict people's behaviour.

Suppliers' delivery times in manufacturing, France

Sources: European Commission, IHS Markit, and ECB calculations. Note: Results of the Purchasing Manager's Survey (PMI). 50 indicates no change in delivery times on the prior month. Latest observation: May 2022.

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GVC experienced the sharpest fall in exports and recovered at a slower pace

Source: French Customs and ECB staff calculations.

Effect of GVC participation, robustness checks

(difference-in-differences)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
		No carry-	3-month	6-month	Control
In Export _{it}	Main	along	continuous	continuous	for
		trade	exporter	importer for GVC	demand
GVC _i *COVID19 _t	-0.0768***	-0.118***	-0.0643***	-0.0685***	-0.0405***
	(0.00967)	(0.0142)	(0.00847)	(0.00994)	(0.00709)
Constant	11.67***	10.55***	11.35***	11.80***	9.530***
	(0.00364)	(0.00418)	(0.00297)	(0.00359)	(0.00294)
Observations	1,156,272	657,060	1,344,392	967,802	8,832,815
R-squared	0.823	0.691	0.816	0.837	0.414
Firm FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Time FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Destination FE	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses. Significance at *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. In contrast to the firm-time estimates in columns 1-4, column 5 is estimated at the firm-time-country level (the dependent variable is $ln Export_{itc}$, the logarithm of the value of firm *i*'s exports at time *t* in country *c*).

Effect of GVC participation by phase and by sector

(difference-in-differences)

	(1)	(2)	(3) Chamicals	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
In Export _{it}	Agriculture & Food	Basic metals and metal products	plastics and non- metallic product	Computer electronic equipment and machinery	Mining and quarrying	Motor vehicles and transport equipment	Other services	Textiles	Wood and paper
GVC _i *COVID19phase1 _t	0.0306	-0.00693	-0.0307	-0.00684	-0.00949	0.103**	-0.0472	-0.150***	-0.0102
	(0.0216)	(0.0422)	(0.0298)	(0.0293)	(0.0911)	(0.0448)	(0.0591)	(0.0546)	(0.0394)
GVC _i *COVID19phase2 _r	-0.0219	-0.0189	-0.0334	-0.0257	-0.155*	0.0258	-0.105	-0.0268	0.0130
	(0.0219)	(0.0424)	(0.0284)	(0.0280)	(0.0854)	(0.0430)	(0.0659)	(0.0571)	(0.0394)
GVC_i *COVID19phase3 _t	-0.0433**	0.0435	-0.0149	-0.00642	-0.149**	-0.132***	-0.0420	-0.130**	-0.114***
	(0.0193)	(0.0377)	(0.0257)	(0.0264)	(0.0736)	(0.0396)	(0.0562)	(0.0514)	(0.0332)
Constant	10.90***	9.264***	10.02***	10.54***	8.395***	10.42***	7.217***	9.585***	8.170***
	(0.00515)	(0.0142)	(0.00971)	(0.00967)	(0.0282)	(0.0138)	(0.0197)	(0.0198)	(0.0124)
Observations	221,226	293,991	453,467	527,138	22,283	129,504	81,772	218,239	188,701
R-squared	0.873	0.818	0.857	0.804	0.883	0.837	0.786	0.827	0.830
Firm FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Time FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Effect of GVC participation by firm-characteristics

(difference-in-differences)

ln Export _{it}	(1) Inventory	(2) Productivity
GVC _i *below median characteristic _i *COVID19 _t	-0.0572*** (0.00991)	-0.0843*** (0.00984)
GVC_i *above median characteristic _i *COVID19 _t	-0.0500*** (0.00947)	-0.0257*** (0.00953)
Constant	10.89*** (0.00432)	10.89*** (0.00431)
Observations	1,110,148	1,110,148
R-squared	0.807	0.807
Firm FE	YES	YES
Time FE	YES	YES

Probability of survival in the export market, effect of GVC participation (Logit model)

Exporter status _{it}	(1) General- odds ratio	(2) General- marginal effect	(3) By phase -odds ratio	(4) By phase- marginal effect
GVC _i *COVID19 _t	-0.210*** (0.0171)	-0.0117*** (0.000954)		
COVID19 _t	-0.629*** (0.0140)	-0.0350*** (0.000784)		
GVC _i	0.864*** (0.0135)	0.0480*** (0.000765)	0.864*** (0.0135)	0.0480*** (0.000764)
GVC _i *COVID19phase1 _t			-0.209*** (0.0344)	-0.0116*** (0.00191)
GVC _i *COVID19phase2 _t			-0.133*** (0.0314)	-0.00741*** (0.00174)
GVC _i *COVID19phase3 _t			-0.222*** (0.0182)	-0.0124*** (0.00101)
COVID19phase1 _t			-0.427*** (0.0285)	-0.0237*** (0.00159)
COVID19phase2t			-0.365*** (0.0258)	-0.0203*** (0.00144)
COVID19phase3t			-0.720*** (0.0149)	-0.0400*** (0.000835)
Constant	2.553*** (0.0109)		2.553*** (0.0109)	
Observations Firm FE Time FE	1,207,872 NO NO	1,207.872 NO NO	1,207,872 NO NO	1,207,872 NO NO

 $\mathbb{1}_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 \operatorname{GVC}_i + \beta_2 \operatorname{GVC}_i * COVID19_t + \beta_3 COVID19_t + \varepsilon_{it}$

Effect of GVC position

(Generalised difference-in-differences)

 $\ln Export_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{ GVC}_i * COVID19_t + \beta_2 \text{ GVC}_i * \text{ GVC position}_i * COVID19_t + FE_i + FE_t + \varepsilon_{it}$

ln Export _{it}	(1) Simple average between imports upstreamness and exports	(2) Exports upstreamness	(3) Imports upstreamness	(4) Simple average between imports upstreamness and exports	(5) Exports upstreamness	(6) Imports upstreamness
	upstreamness	0.00004.6	0.0001***	upstreamness		
GVC_i *GVCposition _i *COVID19 _t	0.0371*** (0.0103)	0.000815 (0.00971)	0.0281			
$\text{GVC}_i^*\text{COVID19}_t$	-0.158*** (0.0248)	-0.0798*** (0.0107)	-0.137*** (0.0188)			
GVC_i *GVCposition _i *COVID19phase1 _t				0.0840*** (0.0117)	0.0856*** (0.0113)	0.0451*** (0.00854)
GVC_i *GVCposition _i *COVID19phase2 _t				-0.0143 (0.0116)	-0.0200* (0.0113)	-0.00930 (0.00838)
$\text{GVC}_i * \text{GVCposition}_i * \text{COVID19phase3}_t$				0.0414*** (0.0119)	-0.00995 (0.0112)	0.0346*** (0.00851)
GVC_i *COVID19phase1 _t				-0.214*** (0.0286)	-0.0495*** (0.0132)	-0.129*** (0.0222)
GVC _i *COVID19phase2 _t				-0.0227 (0.0284)	-0.0498*** (0.0131)	-0.0340 (0.0219)
GVC _i *COVID19phase3 _t				-0.183*** (0.0287)	-0.0935*** (0.0124)	-0.166*** (0.0219)
Constant				11.60^{***} (0.00406)	(0.00977)	11.60^{***} (0.00406)
Observations R-squared Firm FE Time FE	1,083,094 0.819 YES YES	1,083,094 0.819 YES YES	1,083,094 0.819 YES YES	1,083,094 0.819 YES YES	1,083,094 0.819 YES YES	1,083,094 0.819 YES YES

Effect of GVC position on survival probability

 $\mathbb{1}_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{ GVC}_i + \beta_2 \text{ GVC}_i * COVID19_t + \beta_3 \text{ GVC}_i * \text{ GVC position}_i * COVID19_t + \beta_4 COVID19_t + \varepsilon_{it}$

Export status _{it}	(1) General- odds ratio	(2) General- marginal effects	(3) By phase -odds ratio	(4) By phase- marginal effects
GVC_i *GVCposition _i *COVID19 _t	1.021*** (0.0117)	0.0824*** (0.000951)		
GVC_i *COVID19 _t	-2.500*** (0.0262)	-0.202*** (0.00214)		
COVID19 _t	-0.272*** (0.00959)	-0.0219*** (0.000774)		
GVC_i	1.848*** (0.00998)	0.149*** (0.000827)	1.848*** (0.00998)	0.149*** (0.000826)
GVC_i *GVCposition _i *COVID19phase1 _t			1.161*** (0.0350)	0.0937*** (0.00282)
GVC_i *GVCposition _i *COVID19phase2 _t			1.064*** (0.0314)	0.0858*** (0.00253)
GVC_i *GVCposition _i *COVID19phase3 _t			0.994*** (0.0135)	0.0802*** (0.00110)
GVC _i *COVID19phase1 _t			-2.658*** (0.0716)	-0.214*** (0.00579)
GVC _i *COVID19phase2 _t			-2.417*** (0.0647)	-0.195*** (0.00523)
GVC _i *COVID19phase3 _t			-2.498*** (0.0299)	-0.202*** (0.00243)
$COVID19 phase1_t$			-0.204*** (0.0200)	-0.0165*** (0.00162)
COVID19phase2t			-0.161*** (0.0178)	-0.0130*** (0.00144)
COVID19phase3t			-0.311*** (0.0105)	-0.0251*** (0.000847)
Constant	(0.00688)		1.303*** (0.00688)	
Observations Firm FE Time FE	1,176,096 NO	1,176.096 NS	1,176.096 NS	1,176.096 NO

Effect of diversification by phase

In Export _{it}	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	1%	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%
GVC_i *DiversificationCoreProduct _i *COVID19phase1 _t	-0.0607***	-0.0147	-0.0117	-0.00826	-0.0100	-0.00639	-0.00881
	(0.0180)	(0.0119)	(0.0111)	(0.0111)	(0.0113)	(0.0116)	(0.0119)
GVC_i *DiversificationCoreProduct_i*COVID19phase2t	-0.0156	0.0109	0.00751	0.0212*	0.0156	0.0203*	0.0146
	(0.0173)	(0.0116)	(0.0110)	(0.0110)	(0.0112)	(0.0115)	(0.0118)
GVC_i *DiversificationCoreProduct_i*COVID19phase3t	-0.0124	0.0146	0.0151	0.0240**	0.0220*	0.0308***	0.0290**
	(0.0191)	(0.0123)	(0.0114)	(0.0113)	(0.0115)	(0.0118)	(0.0121)
GVC_i *COVID19phase1 _t	-0.0316***	-0.0338***	-0.0333**	-0.0340**	-0.0325**	-0.0343**	-0.0324**
	(0.0120)	(0.0125)	(0.0129)	(0.0133)	(0.0137)	(0.0140)	(0.0144)
GVC_i *COVID19phase2 _t	-0.0375***	-0.0425***	-0.0424***	-0.0500***	-0.0481***	-0.0518***	-0.0488***
	(0.0119)	(0.0123)	(0.0128)	(0.0131)	(0.0135)	(0.0139)	(0.0143)
GVC_i *COVID19phase3 _t	-0.0931***	-0.0988***	-0.101***	-0.107***	-0.107***	-0.114***	-0.114***
	(0.0113)	(0.0118)	(0.0122)	(0.0126)	(0.0130)	(0.0134)	(0.0139)
Constant	11.67***	11.67***	11.67***	11.67***	11.67***	11.67***	11.67***
	(0.00365)	(0.00365)	(0.00365)	(0.00365)	(0.00365)	(0.00365)	(0.00365)
Observations	1,156,272	1,156,272	1,156,272	1,156,272	1,156,272	1,156,272	1,156,272
R-squared	0.823	0.823	0.823	0.823	0.823	0.823	0.823
Firm FE	YES						
Time FE	YES						

Survival probability, effect of diversification

Export status _{it}	(1) General- odds ratio	(2) General- marginal effects	(3) By phase -odds ratio	(4) By phase- marginal effects
GVC_i *DiversificationCoreProudct25pct_i*COVID19_t	0.688*** (0.0115)	0.0381*** (0.000647)		
$GVC_i^*COVID19_t$	-0.582*** (0.0180)	-0.0322*** (0.00100)		
COVID19 _t	-0.629*** (0.0140)	-0.0348*** (0.000781)		
GVC _i	0.864*** (0.0135)	0.0478*** (0.000762)	0.864*** (0.0135)	0.0478*** (0.000761)
GVC_i *DiversificationCoreProudct25pct_i*COVID19phase1_			0.587*** (0.0348)	0.0325*** (0.00193)
GVC_i *DiversificationCoreProudct25pct_i*COVID19phase2t			0.727*** (0.0322)	0.0402*** (0.00179)
GVC_i *DiversificationCoreProudct25pct_i*COVID19phase3_t			0.697*** (0.0132)	0.0386*** (0.000739)
GVC_i *COVID19phase1 _t			-0.531*** (0.0383)	-0.0294*** (0.00212)
GVC_i *COVID19phase2t			-0.520***	-0.0288*** (0.00192)
GVC _i *COVID19phase3 _t			-0.599***	-0.0332*** (0.00107)
COVID19phase1 _t			-0.427***	-0.0236*** (0.00158)
COVID19phase2 _t			-0.365***	-0.0202*** (0.00143)
COVID19phase3 _t			-0.720*** (0.0149)	-0.0399*** (0.000832)
Constant	2,553*** (0.0109)		2,553*** (0.0109)	
Observations Firm FE Time FE	1,207.872 NO	1,207.872 NO	1,207.872 NO	1,207.872 NO

Effect of importing strategic products

 $\ln Export_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{ GVC}_i * \text{ strategi} c_i * COVID19_t + \beta_2 \text{ GVC}_i * (1 - \text{ strategi} c_i) * COVID19_t + FE_i + FE_i + \varepsilon_{it}$

ln Export _{it}	(1) General	(2) Phases
GVC _i *strategic product _i *COVID19 _t	-0.122*** (0.0381)	
GVC _i *non strategic product _i *COVID19 _t	-0.0778*** (0.0292)	
GVC _i *strategic product _i *COVID19phase1 _t		-0.0960** (0.0443)
GVC _i *strategic product _i *COVID19phase2 _t		-0.0824** (0.0410)
GVC _i *strategic product _i *COVID19phase3 _t		-0.137*** (0.0451)
GVC _i *non strategic product _i *COVID19phase1 _t		-0.0183 (0.0376)
GVC _i *non strategic product _i *COVID19phase2 _t		-0.0879** (0.0345)
GVC _i *non strategic product _i *COVID19phase3 _t		-0.0868** (0.0339)
Constant	11.63*** (0.0142)	11.63*** (0.0143)
Observations R-squared Firm FE Time FE	88,794 0.822 YES YES	88,794 0.822 YES YES

