

The Aggregate Effects of Trade and Migration: Evidence from OECD Countries

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Abstract Two large but separate bodies of literature analyze the economic effects of international trade and immigration. Given that several factors affect both trade and migration flows, the previous studies potentially suffer from omitted-variables bias. This paper provides estimates of the effects of trade and immigration on income in a unified framework. We also provide a useful decomposition of the channels at work. We assemble panel data on immigration flows, output, employment and capital stocks for 30 OECD countries over the period 1980–2007. In order to identify the causal effects of trade and immigration we extend the gravity-based approach in Frankel and Romer (Am Econ Rev 89(3):379–399, 1999). Our predictors for trade and immigration flows are based on geography and the demographic trends of each country's trade and migration partners. Our estimates suggest that immigration and trade do not have a significant effect on income per capita in the short run. However, this masks offsetting effects. Trade openness appears to reduce capital intensity but increase TFP. This is consistent with an increase in the degree of specialization in knowledge-intensive industries for OECD countries. In the case of immigration we find that it leads to an increase in the employment rate of the receiving economy but, at the same time, it appears to reduce TFP.

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1 Introduction

Economists believe that an important part of the economic success of countries is driven by their openness to ideas, investment, capital and labor from the rest of the world. Open economies enjoy the benefits from new ideas and goods, greater competition and access to skills and talents beyond those already within their borders. All these forces can potentially fuel economic growth. However, exposure to competition from the rest of the world may also have negative effects on subsets of the population. Globalization of trade flows is often blamed for the off-shoring of manufacturing jobs, employment losses in previously protected industries, and downward pressure on the wages of low-skill workers in rich countries. Likewise greater openness to immigration is often seen as a threat to the labor market outcomes of domestic workers.

The literature on the economic effects of globalization has evolved along separate branches regarding the effects of greater openness to trade and migration flows. The trade literature has focused on quantifying the gains from trade and its channels. To mention but a few, Coe and Helpman (1995) examined the role of international trade as a vehicle of knowledge diffusion. Feenstra and Hanson (1999) investigated the effects of trade on wages. Frankel and Romer (1999) and Alcalá and Ciccone (2004) analyzed the effects of trade openness on economic growth and aggregate productivity. In comparison, the immigration literature has concentrated mainly on the labor-market effects, with an emphasis on the outcomes of low-skill native workers (e.g. Card 2001; Borjas 2003, and many others.). Only a few papers have considered openness to trade and migration within the same framework. Specifically, Borjas et al. (1997) used the factor proportions model to evaluate the joint effect of trade and migration on factor prices. More recently, Ottaviano et al. (2013) have analyzed the employment effect of hiring immigrants and off-shoring jobs on native employment in the context of many productive tasks.

This paper seeks to contribute to the literature on the aggregate economic effects of openness by extending the empirical framework in Frankel and Romer (1999) by including openness to immigration in addition to trade openness and by exploiting longitudinal variation.¹ Considering these two dimensions of openness jointly is potentially crucial for the analysis as migration and trade are very highly correlated and often driven by the same determinants. Yet, immigration and trade policies in most countries are rather different from each other. Empirical studies that only consider one dimension of openness are thus vulnerable to a potentially serious omitted variable bias. Moreover trade flows are increasingly associated and tied with off-shoring and re-importing of intermediate goods (hence with capital movements) and migration, especially those of highly educated, are associated with transfers of knowledge and human capital. Hence these two flows capture most of

¹ Ortega and Peri (2013) is similar in spirit to the analysis here but is based on a single cross-section of data, with a wider coverage of countries and a more comprehensive analysis of other potentially omitted variables.

the relevant circulation of ideas and technology that has been unleashed in the era of globalization. From a policy point of view, it is crucial to know whether the employment and productivity effects of openness are mainly driven by immigration or by trade since the policy implications are vastly different. This paper aims at separately identifying the economic effects of these two dimensions of openness.

Our analysis also decomposes the overall effect of openness on output into several components: labor intensity (measured by employment rate), capital intensity (measured by capital per worker), and technology and production efficiency (measured by total factor productivity). This decomposition is useful because it allows us to evaluate the relevance of different channels through which economies adjust to increases in economic openness. As discussed earlier, there are multiple channels through which trade flows can affect income. This is also the case for immigration, as highlighted by the large number of recent contributions to this question. For instance, immigration may affect aggregate income through its effects on native workers' employment and wages, as in Borjas (2003), Manacorda et al. (2012) Ottaviano and Peri (2012), or Chassamboulli and Palivos (2010). Immigration may also alter the receiving economy's industrial and occupational composition (e.g. Cortés and Tessada 2011; Farré et al. 2011; Frattini 2010; Peri and Sparber 2009), or the relative capital-labor intensities and production technologies at the industry or firm level (Lewis 2005; González and Ortega 2011; Dustmann and Glitz 2010). While there is some evidence that all these channels are at work, their relative importance has not yet been explored. Our results are helpful in this respect because some of these mechanisms will induce changes in labor intensity, while others will mostly operate through changes in capital intensity or total factor productivity.

Obviously, economic development is a cause as well as a consequence, of immigration and trade. Hence, uncovering the causal effects of openness to international trade and migration is not a trivial task. Building on Frankel and Romer (1999), we exploit the fact that countries differ in their geographic location and in the demographic trends of their trade partners and migrant-sending countries. This allows us to construct predictions for openness to trade and migration that can be considered exogenous to country-specific unobserved determinants of income growth. Our predictors are based solely on the demographic trends of partner countries and on geography. As long as these variables are not directly causing economic growth in the destination countries our exclusion restriction will be satisfied. Furthermore we also argue that our instrumental-variables strategy allows us to separately identify the causal effects of trade and immigration.

This paper also contributes to the literature by providing a new migration dataset with a larger coverage in terms of years and countries than used in previous studies. We assemble annual data on bilateral trade and migration flows into 30 OECD countries originating from all countries in the world for the period 1980–2007. Our bilateral migration data is the result of merging several sources (United Nations, OECD Migration database and Mayda 2010), imputing some missing values, and

homogenizing definitions.² We have also conducted numerous consistency checks. The bilateral trade data are taken from the International Monetary Fund (2007) revision and include trade between the OECD countries and 190 partners in each year (with some missing in the years before 1989) beginning in 1980. Our dataset also contains income per person, employment, population and capital stocks for all OECD countries for 1980–2007. These data allow for a joint analysis of the effects of trade and migration on income both in the short run (annual) and in the medium run (4-year periods) on a sample of countries that accounts for a very large share of world trade and migration over our period of interest. We also note that by restricting our analysis to OECD destination countries we reduce the likelihood that differences in the quality of institutions or other unobserved factors may operate as confounding factors.

Our analysis is closely related to Frankel and Romer (1999) but differs from it in several important aspects. As noted already, our main specifications feature both trade openness and immigration rates as regressors. Second, we exploit both the cross-sectional and longitudinal variation of the data, which allows us to estimate specifications that account for all time-invariant determinants of income.³ Third, we explicitly consider the effect of globalization on employment-population ratios, capital intensity and TFP. The first is particularly important since in the presence of labor market rigidities it may well be the case that globalization has important effects on employment (rather than output per worker) in the short and medium run.

Our analysis delivers three main results. First, our instrumental-variables estimates confirm the findings in Frankel and Romer (1999) in the specifications that feature trade openness *only* as a regressor (that is, omitting immigration). Namely, trade openness has a positive and significant effect on income per capita, already in the short run, arising mainly from a large positive effect on the employment rate. Second, when we consider the analogous specification for immigration (that is, not including trade openness) we obtain very similar results. Immigration is associated with a short-run increase in income per capita driven mostly by an increase in the employment rate. However, when we include *both* trade openness and immigration (whose bilateral flows are highly correlated) as regressors the pattern of estimates changes significantly, indicating an important omitted variable bias in the previous estimates.

Our instrumental-variables estimates of the econometric models accounting jointly for trade and immigration suggest that neither have a clear short-run effect on income per capita. However, this finding masks a composition effect. Trade openness appears to increase TFP but, at the same time, is associated to reductions in capital intensity. Likewise immigration seems to reduce TFP but this is offset by a substantial increase in the employment rate. These patterns are robust to restricting our analysis to a subsample for which we have higher quality data, to using a subsample with a more balanced bilateral panel, to considering 4-year (rather than annual) differences, and to taking into account out-migration.

²For more extensive descriptive statistics on this data, please see Ortega and Peri (2014).

³Specifically, our dependent variables are log changes. Hence, time-invariant factors have been differenced out.

We interpret the diverging effects of trade and immigration on TFP as follows. Trade openness stimulates TFP growth by inducing a relocation of factors across industries and firms leading to gains in production efficiency (as in Melitz 2003) or by allowing OECD countries to further specialize and exploit their comparative advantage in knowledge-intensive industries. On the other hand while immigration stimulates employment growth by providing skills complementary to those of natives (as in Manacorda et al. 2012; Ottaviano and Peri 2012; Cortés and Tessada 2011), TFP may fall if the new jobs are disproportionately in the service sector or if firms are paying the new workers below their marginal product (e.g. Chassamboulli and Palivos 2010; Ottaviano et al. 2013). An important caveat is that we are using yearly variation and hence estimating a short-run elasticity. It may take longer for trade and immigration to produce their full effect on productivity and income per capita.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the framework and the empirical specifications that we use to analyze the impact of immigration and openness to trade on economic outcomes. Section 3 describes the data and the construction of the instruments. Section 4 presents the main estimates. Section 5 presents our robustness checks and Sect. 6 concludes.

2 Empirical Framework

Our simple framework can be described with just a few equations. It is an extension of Frankel and Romer (1999). We generically represent an economic outcome for country i in year t with x_{it} . In what follows, x_{it} alternatively stands for income per person y_{it} or one of its components, such as its employment-population ratio e_{it} , its capital-labor ratio k_{it} , or its total factor productivity A_{it} . In the fashion of the cross-country economic growth literature, we assume a production function that combines capital and labor in a Cobb-Douglas fashion, with an elasticity of output to capital equal to α . In this case the four outcomes described above are related as follows:

$$y_{it} = A_{it}k_{it}^{\alpha}e_{it}. \quad (1)$$

Employment-population ratio e_{it} summarizes the labor intensity, capital per worker k_{it} is the (relative) intensity in the use of capital, and total factor productivity A_{it} is a measure of the quality-efficiency of capital and labor. It is plausible to expect that each of these variables will be affected by the general degree of openness of the economy through the frequency of interactions with foreign economic agents and the resulting exchange of ideas, skills, factors of production, and more intense product-market competition. Building on Frankel and Romer (1999), we assume that a country's economic outcomes are a log-linear function of its cumulated exposure to international trade. Continued exposure to international trade spreads knowledge, stimulates competition and selects more productive

firms. It is, however, important to control for the size of the country. Large countries are more diversified in terms of ideas, skills, and factors of production, which increases the frequency of productive interactions taking place within their borders. We also postulate that the frequency and quality of these economic interactions can also depend on the country's cumulated openness to immigration.⁴ More formally,

$$\ln x_{it} = \alpha'_{xt} + \beta_x T_{it} + \gamma_x M_{it} + \delta_x S_i + \varepsilon'_{it}. \quad (2)$$

As noted earlier, x_{it} , the economic outcome of interest for country i in year t , depends on T_{it} , a measure of the *accumulated* openness to foreign goods (for instance, the stock of imported capital or ideas relative to the total stock), M_{it} is a measure of the *accumulated* openness to foreign individuals (such as the stock of immigrants as share of the population), and S_i captures the size of the country. The term α'_{xt} captures the other systematic determinants of the outcome variables and ε'_{it} is a mean-zero random variable accounting for random shocks to $\ln x_{it}$. In time-differences, expression (2) becomes

$$\Delta \ln x_{it} = \alpha_{xt} + \beta_x \tau_{it} + \gamma_x m_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad (3)$$

where τ_{it} and m_{it} are *flow* measures of openness to international trade and international migration, respectively. We proxy these flow measures using exports plus imports as a share of GDP (for τ_{it}) and the flow of new immigrants relative to the population of the country at the beginning of the year (for m_{it}). Let us note that these measures of openness to trade and to immigration are relative to the scale of the country (in terms of output or population) because they proxy for exposure to foreign goods and foreign individuals. Note also that the time-invariant measure of country size has been differenced out. Obviously, disturbance ε_{it} has a zero mean as it is the difference between ε'_{it} and ε'_{it-1} .

The main empirical challenge in the estimation of (3) is the potential *endogeneity* of the exposure to both foreign goods and foreign people, as shocks to economic activity may affect both. Countries that receive positive shocks to income per capita may increase their international trade flows and may also attract more immigrants. To isolate the *causal* effect of openness to foreign goods and people on a country's economic outcomes we use the fact that openness is also a function of two kinds of *external* factors: the country's *geographic location* and the *size of its potential (trade and migration) partners*. We assume that these factors are uncorrelated with unobserved determinants of economic growth in our country of interest, as given by Eq. (3). More specifically, the time-invariant geographic variables include bilateral distance, common border, colonial ties and common language. The potential partner characteristics we consider are purely demographic

⁴ Consider, for instance, the sustained increase in migration flows within EU countries since the Schengen treaty was adopted.

(population size and the share of young individuals in the population) and vary over time.

We estimate auxiliary regressions that predict bilateral trade and migration flows using demographic information for the potential partner countries, and bilateral geographic (and cultural) variables. These regressions are closely related to the highly successful gravity equations in the international trade and migration literature, and were recently micro-founded by Anderson and van Wincoop (2003) and Grogger and Hanson (2011). However, our predictors differ from the standard gravity regressions in one fundamental point. In our bilateral regressions we omit all information regarding the destination country. For instance, we predict the trade (migration) flows between country i and its trading partner j using only the (plausibly exogenous) interactions of the time-invariant bilateral characteristics and the time-varying demographics of country j . Thus, if country i is located near large countries in terms of population it will be predicted to have a high degree of trade (migration) openness.⁵

More specifically, we assume that *trade openness* of country i towards country j is described by:

$$\ln \tau_{ijt} = a_1^t \ln P_{jt} + b_3^t B_{ij} + b_3^t B_{ij} \ln P_{jt} + b_4^t \ln dist_{ij} + b_5^t C_{ij} + b_6^t L_{ij} + e_t^t. \quad (4)$$

The dependent variable is the sum of the bilateral trade between the two countries (exports from i to j plus exports from j to i) relative to the destination country's GDP. In the right-hand side, a^t is an intercept, P_{jt} is the population in country of origin j in year t , B_{ij} is an indicator for common border, $dist_{ij}$ is bilateral distance, C_{ij} is an indicator for colonial ties, L_{ij} is an indicator for common language, and e_t^t is a zero-mean error term.

Similarly we express the *openness to migration* of country i vis-a-vis j by

$$\ln m_{ijt} = a^m + b_1^m \ln P_{jt} + b_2^m B_{ij} + b_3^m B_{ij} \ln P_{jt} + b_4^m \ln dist_{ij} + b_5^m C_{ij} + b_6^m L_{ij} + b_7^m \ln s_{jt} + e_t^m. \quad (5)$$

The dependent variable is the log of the bilateral (gross) migration flow from country j to country i , divided by the destination country's population.⁶ All the right-hand side variables in Eq. (4) are also included here. But, in addition, we include s_{jt} , the share of young people in origin country j in year t . The presence of large cohorts of young individuals in the potential countries of origin is considered

⁵ In comparison Frankel and Romer (1999) include also the population of the destination country as an explanatory variable for bilateral trade flows.

⁶ A fully symmetric definition of openness to migration would also include the migration flows from i to j . However, these data are not available for many origin countries. More importantly, for the case of migration it seems clear that inflows are a more important determinant of a country's economic outcomes than outflows and most of the considered OECD countries have a net positive immigration.

as a relevant determinant of migration.⁷ Auxiliary regressions (4) and (5) are used to predict bilateral trade and immigration flows. However Eq. (3) calls for destination-country-specific predictions of openness to trade and migration. Accordingly, we aggregate our bilateral predictions over origin countries: $\hat{\tau}_{it} = \sum_j \exp(\ln \hat{\tau}_{ijt})$ and $\hat{m}_{it} = \sum_j \exp(\ln \hat{m}_{ijt})$.

Our key identifying assumption is that the explanatory variables included in Eqs. (4) and (5) are uncorrelated with the error term in Eq. (3). This assumption would be violated by the existence of unobserved factors that simultaneously affect demographics in the origin countries and short-run changes to economic outcomes at destination.

Given that the explanatory variables of our predictors for trade and migration openness are almost identical, separately identifying the roles of the two variables will depend crucially on obtaining meaningful differences between the estimates of vectors $\mathbf{b}^m = (b_1^m, b_2^m, \dots, b_7^m)$ and $\mathbf{b}^r = (b_1^r, b_2^r, \dots, b_6^r)$. To strengthen identification we have also included the age structure of the population (share of the population with age 15–29) only in the migration predictor. This choice is based on a large body of literature documenting the high propensity to migrate for young individuals (Hatton and Williamson 1998; Hanson and McIntosh 2012). In contrast, this demographic group is likely to be relatively unimportant in terms of production and trade since a substantial share may be enrolled in school and their workplace experience is still relatively limited.

3 Bilateral Trade and Migration Flows

3.1 Data

To estimate regressions (4) and (5) we use data on bilateral trade and migration flows between all (origin) countries in the world (with available data) and the 30 OECD (destination) countries. Table 10 in the appendix lists the countries covered by our data. It also reports the number of immigration sending countries for which there is non-zero migration for each destination in some representative years. The data are an unbalanced panel beginning in year 1980 and ending in 2007. For a subset of destination countries (14) we have bilateral migration data for the whole period, relative at least to the main countries of origin. Four more countries (France, Luxembourg, UK and Switzerland) have data beginning in the early 1980s (hence no observation in 1980 but several non-zero observations starting in 1983 or

⁷ Pritchett argues that non-EU immigration will continue to rise in the European Union as a result of the diverging demographic futures of Europe and the countries in the north of Africa. Several of these countries have large and growing populations and a large share of young population and, in the light of recent events in Egypt, highly unsatisfied with economic prospects in their countries.

1984). To the contrary, the other countries have a shorter span of coverage for their data. For the shorter period 1998–2007 we have data for many more countries. However, some individual bilateral flows are missing for some years (for instance bilateral data in some destinations are only collected within a sub-period) and some countries do not report all the bilateral flows each year (hence, a smaller number of sending countries is reported in some years). Some countries are particularly limited in terms of identifying immigrants by country of origin. The worst cases are Ireland, which only explicitly identifies migrants from the UK and the USA, and Greece, for which the OECD database contains migration flows exclusively in the year 1998. In general, however, receiving countries tend to consistently report data from all the main sending countries, hence the increase in numbers of zero-observations in some years is often due to the non-recording of countries with an extremely low number of observations.

Our immigration data measure the yearly inflow of foreign citizens who intend to be residents (at least for some time) in the receiving countries. To span the whole period of analysis, still with some limitations and differences across countries, we have merged bilateral immigration data from three sources. The first source is Ortega and Peri (2009). The OECD original series were discontinued in 1994 and with the help of Mayda (2010) we extended the series up to 2005. The second source is United Nations (2005), which reports very long time series but only for a subset of 15 destination countries. This source goes back to the sixties for some countries, but ends in the early 2000s for all of them. The third source is the International Migration database (IMD) gathered by the OECD and available up to 2007.⁸ The latter has the most extensive coverage in terms of destination and sending countries, but it only begins in 1998, and for some destinations it only has few countries as source. We have made sure that the definitions of immigrant are consistent across databases for each receiving country. Essentially, all datasets use as primary sources the original data released by the statistical offices of each receiving country, which try to maintain internal consistency over time. In our checks we often find an exact coincidence of the figures in overlapping periods. Occasionally there are slight differences introducing discontinuities as we merge two series from different sources. In those cases we include a dummy in the regression to account for the possible discrete jump, as we describe below. Table 11 in the Appendix summarizes the availability from each data source by destination country. Specifically, starting with the UN migration data, we have filled in missing origin-destination-year observations from the IMD data. Next, we have used the data in Ortega and Peri (2009) where IMD and UN data were missing. In a limited number of cases we have also interpolated observations. We did this only when a missing data point for a bilateral migration flow was available in both the previous and following years.

The total inflow of immigrants each year for each country of destination constitutes what we call *total (gross) immigration*. We also constructed a measure of *total net immigration* for each receiving country, where we correct for the outflow of

⁸ Downloadable at <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=MIG>.

foreign persons, due to re-migration or return migration. These data have partial coverage as they are only available in the IMD data. We use them to perform sensitivity analysis.

The bilateral trade data in current US dollars are from the IMF, Direction of Trade Statistics (DOT), October 2007 release.⁹ This database is a substantial improvement on the previous DOT release (used in Frankel and Romer 1999). It covers 190 countries (many more than it did earlier) and it has a very accurate coverage of import and export flows especially for the period 1998–2007. No other database on trade data has coverage extending to the recent years and covering as many countries (e.g. the UN-NBER trade data collected by Feenstra et al. (1997)¹⁰ ends in 2000, the WTO world trade statistics does not collect data for such a fine breakdown of partners). The measure of openness to trade for each destination country is the sum of imports and exports relative to GDP and is obtained from the Penn World Tables, version 6.2. The demographic data for the origin countries (total population and share of the population age 15–29) are from the Penn World Tables version 6.2 and from the UN Population Statistics. The data on income and employment are from OECD datasets and cover the whole period 1980–2007. Specifically, GDP and capital stock data are from the OECD Productivity dataset, and employment data are from the OECD-STAN dataset.

We also make use of the data on aggregate investment in the Penn World Tables (version 6.2) to increase the coverage of the capital stock data. Using these data we compute total factor productivity as a Solow residual, assuming a CRS Cobb-Douglas production function with a labor share of 0.66 and using total employment and capital stock as the inputs into production.¹¹

Table 1 reports some summary statistics for the sample of destination countries: immigration rates, trade openness, and log changes for GDP per person, total GDP, population, employment, capital, and TFP. The upper panel covers the whole period and the lower panel is restricted to the sub-period (1998–2007) for which we have immigration data for a larger number of destination countries. Several observations are worth noting. First, there is a large difference in our measures of the degree of openness to trade and openness to foreign migrants. Traded goods account on average for 76 % of output. Assuming roughly equal imports and exports, about one third of the value of the goods consumed in a country originate from abroad. In contrast, new immigrants are on average only 0.62 % of the receiving country's population. In order to obtain regression coefficients that have roughly the same magnitude we use immigration rates in percentages and openness to trade in shares in our analysis (the standard deviation of both is around

⁹ Described at <http://www2.imfstatistics.org/DOT/help/DOThelp.htm>.

¹⁰ And available at <http://cid.econ.ucdavis.edu/data/undata/undata.html>.

¹¹ Ideally, it would be cleaner to use total hours worked and capital services (as opposed to capital stocks) to build our TFP measure. However, these data are only available for a small subset of our data. At any rate, our less sophisticated measure of TFP is highly consistent with the series reported in the OECD Productivity dataset. In a regression of growth rates of the two TFP measures we find that the estimated coefficient is 0.92 and the standard error is 0.018.

Table 1 Descriptive statistics

	Obs.	Mean	Std. dev.	Min	Max
Period 1980–2007					
Immigration rate $\times 100$	527	0.62	0.54	0.01	3.28
Trade/GDP	611	0.76	0.48	0.16	3.13
$\Delta \ln$ (GDP per person) $\times 100$	729	2.22	3.30	−23.51	11.00
$\Delta \ln$ (Total GDP) $\times 100$	729	2.68	3.33	−23.44	11.99
$\Delta \ln$ Population $\times 100$	581	0.51	0.46	−0.59	2.08
$\Delta \ln$ Employment $\times 100$	729	0.92	1.58	−7.98	20.03
$\Delta \ln$ (Physical capital) $\times 100$	692	2.95	2.17	−1.45	18.18
$\Delta \ln$ TFP $\times 100$	692	1.13	2.73	−16.38	9.17
Period 1998–2007					
Immigration rate $\times 100$	268	0.68	0.62	0.01	3.28
Trade/GDP	285	0.89	0.52	0.19	3.13
$\Delta \ln$ (GDP per person) $\times 100$	280	2.83	2.36	−13.52	10.50
$\Delta \ln$ (Total GDP) $\times 100$	280	3.22	2.35	−12.78	11.22
$\Delta \ln$ Population $\times 100$	274	0.45	0.47	−0.59	1.64
$\Delta \ln$ Employment $\times 100$	280	0.97	1.18	−2.50	5.75
$\Delta \ln$ (Physical capital) $\times 100$	260	3.28	1.39	0.74	8.73
$\Delta \ln$ TFP $\times 100$	260	1.34	1.99	−14.58	9.17

Note: Country-year observations covering 30 OECD countries. The immigration rate is defined as new immigrants over total population at the beginning of the year. The mean and standard deviations are unweighted and calculated across countries and years. The immigration rate is defined as the gross inflow of new immigrants over the total population in the country at the beginning of the year

0.5). Second, immigration rates, while small, are of the same magnitude as population growth rates (0.62 % and 0.51 %, respectively). Hence, in our sample immigration on average accounted for a large share of the total population growth in the receiving countries. Income per person grew on average by 2.2 % per year, with TFP growth accounting for about half of the increase. Increases in the employment-population ratio and capital deepening contributed in similar magnitudes to the remaining economic growth over this period.

3.2 Auxiliary Regressions

As described in Sect. 2, we use gravity Eqs. (4) and (5) to build predictions of immigration rates and trade openness by destination country that are based on geography and origin-country demographic data.

In our regressions we drop missing observations (usually in the early years of the sample) and we add one unit to the zero trade or zero immigrants observations within the sample and include them in the auxiliary regressions. This way, as we run regressions in logarithms, we do not lose the information contained in the zeroes. We estimate regressions (4) and (5) by OLS. We point out that we do not include

any time or fixed effect in order to make use of variation in trade openness and bilateral migration rates that arises purely from bilateral geographic variables (together with common language and colonial ties dummies) and partner-country demographics. We then calculate, for each destination and year, the overall predicted immigration rate and trade openness as $\hat{\tau}_{it} = \sum_j \exp(\ln \hat{\tau}_{ijt})$ and $\hat{m}_{it} = \sum_j \exp(\ln \hat{m}_{ijt})$.

Table 2 reports the OLS estimates of (4) and (5). Columns 1 and 2 display results for the bilateral immigration rate. The specification in column 1 is identical to the one used to predict bilateral trade openness in column 3. Column 2 includes the share of young in the sending countries in the prediction of immigration rates. The estimated coefficients are generally in line with those estimated in the literature. Our estimates in column 3 are comparable to those in Frankel and Romer (1999) and Frankel and Rose (2002).¹² A few points are worth noting. First, both for immigration and trade flows, bilateral distance and the size of the origin country in terms of population are statistically and economically important. However, both variables have a stronger effect on the flows of goods than on the flows of persons. In contrast, common language plays a much larger role in determining migration than trade, consistent with language being key in facilitating skill transferability, and a more rapid economic and cultural assimilation of migrants. Likewise, the presence of a large and young country near the border (e.g. Mexico and the US) is a more important predictor of bilateral migration than of trade flows. Finally, colonial ties appear to affect trade more than migration. Traditionally many free trade agreements followed the lines of previous colonial empires.

The estimated coefficients in columns 1 and 3 imply substantial differences in the weights assigned to the regressors in our predictions of trade openness and immigration rates. Additionally, to strengthen identification of their separate roles, our main predictor for immigration rates (column 2) also includes the share of young (age 15–29) in the countries of origin, but we do not include it to explain trade openness. As emphasized in the immigration literature (Hatton and Williamson 1998; Hanson and McIntosh 2012; Clark et al. 2007), this share of the population displays higher migration rates and there is no evidence indicating that the role of this young cohort in production (of internationally traded goods) is particularly large.¹³ As expected, the share of young is highly significant (column 2) and increases the goodness of fit of the bilateral migration regression by about 10 %.

While one can add a whole set of additional variables and interactions in the gravity equations, our goal is to identify a minimal set of geographic factors and origin-country demographic factors that is likely to be uncorrelated with

¹² Frankel and Rose (2002) estimate a similar specification for bilateral trade flows on a cross-section of data for year 1990. They find a coefficient of 0.82 for the log of the origin population, –1.43 for log distance, and 0.53 for the common language dummy (not included in Frankel and Romer 1999). These estimates are also replicated in Cavallo and Frankel (2008).

¹³ In fact its coefficient was not significant when entered in the trade regression.

Table 2 Gravity regressions for bilateral migration flows and trade flows

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Ln Immig. rate	Ln Immig. rate	Ln Trade/GDP
ln population origin	0.58** [0.04]	0.58** [0.04]	0.91** [0.02]
Common border	-1.27 [160]	-2.31 [1.60]	0.09 [1.42]
ln (pop origin) \times (common border)	0.23 [0.15]	0.30** [0.13]	0.10 [0.13]
ln distance	-0.60** 0.15	-0.64** 0.16	-1.43** [0.07]
Colonial ties	-0.04 [0.40]	0.04 [0.40]	0.77** [0.30]
Common language	1.64** [0.31]	1.55** [0.31]	0.24 [0.33]
Share young origin		0.06** [0.02]	
Observations	79,282	66,410	69,315
R-squared	0.20	0.23	0.46

Note: Observations are defined by origin-destination country pairs by year. The immigration rate is defined as new immigrants over total population at the beginning of the year. In Regressions 1 and 2 the dependent variable is the natural logarithm of immigrants from country j to country i divided by the population of country i . In regression 3 it is the sum of export and imports between countries i and j divided by the GDP of country i . Share of young is the fraction of the population with age 15–29 years old. Standard errors are heteroskedasticity-robust and clustered by destination country. Method of estimation is OLS

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

unobserved determinants of income growth in the destination country. Additional explanatory variables, such as measures of economic size and performance of the partner countries, while surely increasing the goodness of fit of our predictors, would reduce the credibility of the exclusion restriction. Our identifying assumption is based on the idea that the location of a country, its language and colonial ties, and the demographic structure of its potential partner countries are not correlated with annual changes in income per person, employment-population ratio, capital intensity and total factor productivity of the country, except through bilateral trade and migration flows. While some large scale economic shocks (natural catastrophes, large recessions, financial crisis) can affect the economies of many countries simultaneously, unless they also affect the demography and the geography of the countries of origin they will not affect the validity of our instrument.¹⁴

¹⁴ Ortega and Peri (2009) included a set of origin-destination and origin-year fixed effects in their predictors. Obviously, their predictors accounted for a larger share of the variation in actual bilateral and migration flows. However, one should be concerned that these catch-all variables, albeit specific to the countries of origin, may also be absorbing variation that is correlated with economic outcomes at destination. In comparison, here we pursue a much more conservative

Table 3 First-stage regressions. Power of the gravity-predicted variables

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Imm. rate	Imm. rate	Trade/GDP	Trade/GDP
Panel A: Main specifications				
Predicted imm. rate	0.365*** [0.0141]	0.355*** [0.0252]		0.0938*** [0.0135]
Predicted trade/GDP		0.0528 [0.108]	1.453*** [0.0448]	1.256*** [0.0527]
Observations	546	546	569	546
R-squared	0.529	0.529	0.758	0.784
F statistic	668	334	1,050	989
Panel B: Destination-country fixed effects				
Predicted imm. rate	0.140*** [0.0217]	0.131*** [0.0219]		0.0912*** [0.0151]
Predicted trade/GDP		1.070** [0.427]	1.169*** [0.426]	0.439 [0.324]
Observations	546	546	569	546
R-squared	0.843	0.844	0.967	0.975
F statistic	41.44	26.63	7.5	22
Panel C: Main specifications, balanced panel 1998–2007				
Predicted imm. rate	0.385*** [0.0130]	0.438*** [0.0288]		0.0930*** [0.0208]
Predicted trade/GDP		−0.318** [0.148]	1.644*** [0.0705]	1.344*** [0.105]
Observations	257	257	265	257
R-squared	0.674	0.684	0.728	0.754
F statistic	879	414	545	573

Note: The predicted values for immigration rates and trade/GDP are obtained adding the predictions of specification (2) and (3) of Table 2 across all trading or migration partner countries (j), respectively. The immigration rate is the ratio of new immigrants to the total population at the beginning of the year. Each observation in the regressions is a destination country by year. Standard errors (in square brackets) are heteroskedasticity robust. All regressions include year dummies

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

3.3 Relevance of the Instruments

Table 3 reports the results of a series of regressions aimed at examining the explanatory power of our predicted immigration rates and degree of trade openness. All these regressions are at the level of destination-country and year. The dependent variable in columns 1 and 2 is the immigration rate by destination. While in column 1 the main explanatory variable is the predicted immigration rate, column 2 also includes the predicted trade flows as a fraction of GDP. Columns 3 and 4 are

approach by only including variables in our gravity predictors that are very likely to be uncorrelated with shocks to economic conditions in the destination countries.

analogous but for the degree of trade openness in the destination country as dependent variable.

Let us start by examining the top panel. Our predictors are highly relevant. As seen in columns 1 and 2, a predicted immigration rate equal to one percent of the receiving-country's population is associated with an actual immigration rate of 0.35–0.36 % and the percentage of variance explained is over 50 %. Analogously, our predicted trade flows are highly relevant in explaining actual trade openness, with a coefficient ranging between 1.2 and 1.4 in columns 3 and 4. In this case, the explained variance rises over 75 %. In all cases we can strongly reject the null hypothesis of weak instruments, as evidenced by the high F statistics on the joint significance of the instruments. Importantly, both immigration rates and trade openness are essentially explained by their respective predictions. Adding predicted trade openness does not improve the F statistic for immigration and likewise when adding predicted immigration to the trade openness regression. In words, there is a differential impact of geography and origin-country demographics on the flows of goods and migrants. This is a very important pre-requisite to separately identify the causal effects of immigration and trade openness on income growth and its determinants.

The middle panel reports the results of specifications that include destination-country fixed effects.¹⁵ Our predictors are still significant although standard errors increase substantially. As a result, the strength of the instruments is greatly reduced, particularly for trade openness. In column 3 we cannot reject the null of weak instruments and in column 4 predicted trade flows become non-significant.¹⁶ This suggests that a large part of the power of our instruments for trade (and to a lesser extent for migration) flows is due to cross-sectional variation. This is reasonable given that geography is time-invariant and the demographics of the countries of origin move only slowly over time. Hence, while the instrument is successful in predicting trade openness variation across countries and years, its within-country performance is much weaker. Let us emphasize again that our specifications are in logarithmic changes and they already account for time-invariant destination-country factors that determine the *levels* of income per person, employment rates, capital per worker, and TFP. These factors account, to a large extent, for cross-country differences in policies, institutions and initial income levels. Thus our regressions identify the impact of trade flows and migration flows on the changes in economic outcomes.

The bottom panel reports the first-stage regressions for the reduced sample period (1998–2007) for which we have observations for 30 OECD countries. The results are very similar to those in the top panel. It is worth noting in column

¹⁵ We note that the specifications in (3) are already in changes. Hence, unlike Frankel and Romer (1999) we are already accounting for time-invariant determinants of income per person. Likewise, Eqs. (4) and (5) predict flows of goods and people, as opposed to stocks.

¹⁶ Note that the standard errors are roughly ten times larger in the middle panel of column 3 compared to the top panel.

2 (bottom panel) that the predictor for immigration and for trade openness have opposite signs. This reinforces our conviction that the instruments are successful in separately identifying the roles of immigration and trade openness on income growth.

4 The Effects of Immigration and Trade on Income

We now turn to the central question of this paper. How do trade and immigration flows affect income growth and its components? Our main specification is Eq. (3) using, alternatively, as dependent variables log changes in income per person, in the employment-population ratio, in capital per worker, and in total factor productivity. The main explanatory variables are the degree of trade openness (τ_{it} , the ratio of exports plus imports relative to GDP) and the immigration rate (m_{it} , annual inflows of new immigrants relative to the total initial population). The main sample contains 30 OECD countries and spans (unbalanced) the period 1980–2007 at an annual frequency.

4.1 OLS Estimates

Table 4 reports the OLS estimates of Eq. (3). The top panel (panel A) presents estimates for specifications where the key explanatory variable is, in turn, only the immigration rate, only trade openness, or both of these variables included together. Each column corresponds to a different dependent variable. We consider regression models featuring as main explanatory variable either *solely* the immigration rate, or *solely* the degree of trade openness. The latter is comparable to the specification in Frankel and Romer (1999). But we also consider specifications *jointly* featuring the immigration rate and the degree of trade openness. Since in our data both variables are significantly correlated, the latter specification is preferred as it is less vulnerable to omitted variable bias.¹⁷

All specifications contain year dummies and a set of indicators accounting for each observation's source of immigration data. The latter account for potential discrete jumps in the immigration data across data sources. Obviously, these OLS estimates are subject to potential endogeneity bias both on account of immigrants' location choices and on the responsiveness of trade flows to unobserved income shocks. Clearly, these concerns are less severe for the estimates reported in panel B

¹⁷ The correlation coefficient between immigration rates and trade openness across country-year observations is 0.49. When we estimate a regression model for trade openness using as regressors the immigration rate, year dummies and country dummies, the point estimate on the immigration rate is 0.13, with a robust standard error of 0.03.

Table 4 The effects of immigration and trade. OLS Estimates

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP/Pop})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{Emp/POP})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{K/Empl})$	$\Delta \ln \text{TFP}$
Panel A: OLS				
Imm. rate	0.275 [0.178]	0.665*** [0.137]	-0.780*** [0.143]	-0.0233 [0.190]
Observations	545	537	536	536
R-squared	0.332	0.180	0.211	0.257
Trade/GDP	0.937*** [0.189]	0.658*** [0.0969]	-0.532*** [0.105]	0.393** [0.188]
Observations	582	572	568	568
R-squared	0.294	0.164	0.157	0.235
Imm. rate	-0.265 [0.197]	0.450** [0.187]	-0.595*** [0.205]	-0.333 [0.221]
Trade/GDP	1.078*** [0.210]	0.428*** [0.152]	-0.359** [0.180]	0.602*** [0.218]
Observations	545	537	536	536
R-squared	0.365	0.194	0.218	0.268
Panel B: Destination-country fixed effects				
Imm. rate	0.0922 [0.361]	0.368** [0.175]	0.631*** [0.229]	-0.452 [0.398]
Trade/GDP	3.661*** [0.974]	1.187** [0.502]	-1.769*** [0.564]	2.882*** [1.015]
Observations	545	537	536	536
R-squared	0.489	0.273	0.427	0.349

Note: Units of observations are OECD countries by year. The immigration rate is the ratio of new immigrants to the total population at the beginning of the year. All specifications include year dummies. Regressions including the immigration rate in the right-hand-side also include immigration-data-source dummies. Standard errors (in brackets) are robust to heteroskedasticity ***p < 0.01, **p < 0.05, *p < 0.1

(bottom), which also include destination-country fixed effects. These effects absorb all time-invariant determinants of income growth, mitigating to some extent the previous source of bias.

Let us begin by examining the estimates of *trade openness* on the economic outcomes of interest. As shown in column 1, there is a significant positive association between trade openness and income growth. Moreover, this effect is qualitatively robust to including the immigration rate as a regressor and to including destination-country fixed effects. Note though that in the latter case (panel B) the standard errors increase by a factor of 5. Interestingly, the point estimate in our specification where trade openness is the only regressor (panel A, middle set of estimates) is very similar to that obtained by Frankel and Romer (1999) in a comparable specification, at 0.93 and 0.85, respectively. In addition, the estimates in columns 2 through 4 reveal positive associations between trade openness and

growth in employment rates and TFP, while a negative association with growth in capital intensity. We defer interpreting the pattern of estimates and discussing the magnitudes of the effects until Sect. 4.2.

Let us now turn to the role of *immigration rates* for income growth and its determinants. As seen in panel A (column 1), the immigration rate appears to be uncorrelated with the short-run growth of GDP per person. This is true both in the regression model featuring immigration solely and in the one containing trade openness as well, with and without destination-country fixed effects. That is, the lack of association between immigration and short-run income growth is a robust feature of the data. Interestingly, the results in columns 2 across all specifications reveal a robust positive association between immigration rates and log changes in the employment rate. Specifically, an inflow of immigrants equal to 1 % of the population is associated with an increase in the employment rate of 0.37 % (joint specification with fixed effects). The large increase in the employment rate reflects a large effect on total employment, together with a smaller effect on the total population.¹⁸ Turning to column 3, there appears to be a non-zero association between immigration and changes in capital intensity. However, while in panel A the point estimate is negative in both cases, in panel B it is positive. As discussed earlier, the specification including destination-country fixed effects is more reliable since it requires weaker, though still restrictive, assumptions for consistent estimates. Based on the estimates in column 5, we do not find any significant association between immigration rates and TFP growth. Of course, all of these need not be causal effects. It is entirely possible that immigrants choose to move to countries where income, employment rates, capital intensities and TFP are growing for unobserved reasons. In this case, we would expect the estimates reported in Table 4 to be upwardly biased. The instrumental-variables estimates in Sect. 4.2 will address this issue.

4.2 Two-Stage Least-Squares Estimates

The biggest limitation of the OLS estimates in Table 4 is that they are subject to endogeneity bias, arising both from immigration and trade openness potentially being affected by unobserved determinants of income growth. To address these issues we adopt an instrumental-variables approach, in which we use our gravity-based predictions for immigration and trade openness as instruments.

Table 5 reports the results of the 2SLS estimation. Panel A (top) reports estimates for specifications containing year dummies and immigration-data-source dummies. The specifications in panel B (bottom) additionally include destination-

¹⁸ When we estimated the impact of immigration rate on employment and population separately (not shown but available upon request) we found a coefficient around 0.5 for population and around 1 for employment.

Table 5 The effects of immigration and trade, 2SLS Estimates

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP/Pop})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{Emp/POP})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{K/Emp})$	$\Delta \ln \text{TFP}$
Panel A: Two-stage least-squares estimates				
Imm. rate	0.450*	1.000***	-0.779***	-0.253
	[0.250]	[0.123]	[0.128]	[0.246]
Observations	537	537	529	529
R-squared	0.332	0.166	0.217	0.258
Trade/GDP	0.729***	0.571***	-0.533***	0.329
	[0.239]	[0.136]	[0.139]	[0.245]
Observations	582	572	568	568
R-squared	0.292	0.163	0.157	0.235
Imm. rate	-0.102	1.033***	-0.0400	-1.047**
	[0.398]	[0.270]	[0.292]	[0.450]
Trade/GDP	0.627*	-0.0378	-0.829***	0.890**
	[0.360]	[0.252]	[0.286]	[0.414]
Observations	537	537	529	529
R-squared	0.360	0.162	0.206	0.254
Panel B: 2SLS with continent dummies				
Imm. rate	-0.327	1.179***	-0.0941	-1.381**
	[0.579]	[0.304]	[0.321]	[0.646]
Trade/GDP	0.901	-0.207	-0.665*	1.234*
	[0.585]	[0.297]	[0.340]	[0.655]
Observations	537	537	529	529
R-squared	0.366	0.146	0.252	0.245

Note: Units of observations are OECD countries by year. The immigration rate is the ratio of new immigrants to the total population at the beginning of the year. All specifications include year dummies. Regressions including the immigration rate in the right-hand-side also include immigration-data-source dummies. Standard errors (in brackets) are robust to heteroskedasticity ***p < 0.01, **p < 0.05, *p < 0.1

continent fixed effects.¹⁹ This set of dummy variables absorbs unobserved determinants of income growth that remain constant over time during our sample period, such as international treaties facilitating trade and migration among neighboring countries. However, the instruments are somewhat weaker, which lead to less precise estimates. As before, our most preferred specifications are the ones that jointly include the immigration rate and trade openness as explanatory variables.

Let us begin by examining the estimates of the regression models that include *either* the immigration rate *or* trade openness in the right-hand side (the top two regressions in panel A). First of all, we note that the coefficient on trade openness is

¹⁹ As discussed earlier, when destination-country fixed effects are introduced our instruments are weakened substantially. As a second-best option we follow Frankel and Romer (1999) and include a less demanding set of destination-continent fixed effects.

0.73, statistically different from zero. The preferred 2SLS estimate in Frankel and Romer (1999) is 1.99, with an associated standard error of approximately 1. Noguer and Siscart (2005) estimate a specification identical to Frankel and Romer (1999) but using better data.²⁰ Their preferred estimate is around 1 (with a standard error ranging between 0.28 and 0.45), which is very close to our point estimate. Hence, our results are highly consistent with previous studies estimating the effect of trade on income.

Secondly, scrolling across columns it is striking that immigration and trade appear to have very similar effects: they increase income per person and employment rates, yet reduce capital per worker. While this may certainly be the case, this result may also be driven by an omitted variable problem arising from a strong positive correlation between openness to trade and to immigration. To address this concern we now turn to our preferred specification, where the right-hand-side features both the immigration rate and trade openness. Interestingly, the qualitative pattern of our estimated effects changes substantially, strongly suggesting an omitted variables problem in regression models that fail to include either openness to trade or openness to immigration.

Regarding the effects of trade openness, we now find only marginally significant positive coefficients (third regression in panel A). When continent fixed-effects are included (panel B) the point estimate increases moderately (from 0.6 to 0.9) but so does the standard error so that we can not reject the null of a zero coefficient. Interestingly, this was also the case in Frankel and Romer (1999). When they introduced continent dummies their point estimate was around one and not statistically different from zero. Furthermore, our estimates suggest that trade openness leads to TFP growth but that effect is offset by a reduction in the economy's aggregate capital intensity. Our interpretation is that increases in trade openness for OECD countries may stimulate the reallocation of labor towards more knowledge-intensive sectors, raising the efficiency and overall factor productivity of the economy as a whole.

Let us now turn to the effects of immigration. The estimates in panel A (third regression) and panel B suggest that it has no effect on income per person in the short run (column 1). In contrast, immigration has a large, positive effect on the employment rate of the receiving economy, without significantly affecting capital intensity. Finally, immigration is associated with lower TFP—our estimates suggest that an immigration inflow equal to 1 % of the population in the receiving country leads to a 1 % increase in the employment rate and to an equally-sized reduction in TFP.²¹

²⁰ Noguer and Siscart (2005) use bilateral trade data from the World Trade Database (1997 release). This data contain 8,096 bilateral observations. In comparison, Frankel and Romer (1999) use bilateral trade data from the IFS Direction of Trade Statistics, 1997 release, containing only 3,220 observations and relying heavily on imputation. We use the more recent 2007 release of IFS statistics that contains many more observations especially for the period 1998–2007.

²¹ When destination-country fixed effects are included (not shown but available upon request) the standard errors grow by one order of magnitude. As a result the point estimates become virtually uninformative. We remind the reader that our main specifications are in log-changes and, therefore, time-invariant determinants of income per person will not affect the consistency of our 2SLS estimation.

These estimates of the short-run effects of immigration suggest that immigration triggers a capital inflow that keeps the capital-labor ratio essentially unchanged.

5 Robustness

5.1 *Balanced Panels*

One concern is that the data are noisier for the earlier years in our sample period, since the quality of the immigration data is somewhat lower for those years. Indeed we had to rely more heavily on imputation and combine more sources of immigration data for that period than for more recent years. Another concern is data are better and more consistent for some countries (those with a longer history of immigration and more developed) than others. On one hand an important robustness check is to repeat the analysis using only the period 1998–2007, for which we have a panel covering the 30 OECD countries and our bilateral migration data is from a single data source (the OECD International Migration Data). On the other, the larger sample of countries implies that for some of them the bilateral migration data are not very complete (some countries only report few sending countries and possibly only some years). Hence, we will also construct a panel of fewer countries (the 14 for which we have uninterrupted data 1980–2007 plus France, Great Britain, Switzerland and Luxembourg whose data begin in the early eighties), but with an almost balanced and full time series in each.

Table 6 reports OLS and 2SLS estimates for the period 1998–2007, with and without continent dummies. The results strongly confirm our previous findings. Immigration has no short-run effects on income per person. That is to say, it increases GDP in the short run by the same percentage amount as it increases the population. Moreover, immigration has a large positive effect on the employment rate, which is offset by a negative TFP effect of the same magnitude. The pattern for the effects of trade is also the same as in Table 5: a negative effect on capital intensity but an offsetting positive effect on TFP (columns 3 and 4, panels B and C). It is worth noting that the standard errors that we obtain in the smaller sample are comparable, and sometimes smaller, than those in Table 5 for the whole sample. This is partly due to the better quality data and partly by the fact that our shorter but wider panel relies more on cross-sectional variation.

Table 7 reports OLS and 2SLS estimates for the longer (almost) balanced panel of 18 countries, 1980–2007, with and without continent dummies. The results are also in line with the previous findings. In particular, focusing on the 2SLS estimates, we note that immigration has no short-run effects on income per person. It increases GDP in the short run by the same percentage amount as it increases the population. Moreover, immigration has a large positive and significant effect on the employment rate. This effect is offset by a negative TFP effect of similar magnitude (but not statistically significant). The longer panel shows that the estimated

Table 6 The effects of immigration and trade. Short and wider panel

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP/Pop})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{Emp/POP})$	$\Delta \ln(K/\text{Emp})$	$\Delta \ln \text{TFP}$
Panel A: OLS				
Imm. rate	−0.458* [0.248]	0.415*** [0.120]	0.479*** [0.152]	−0.488** [0.229]
Trade/GDP	1.361*** [0.273]	0.518*** [0.139]	−0.148 [0.190]	0.631*** [0.236]
Observations	255	248	246	246
R-squared	0.387	0.281	0.133	0.229
Panel B: Two-stage least squares				
Imm. rate	0.0239 [0.319]	0.821*** [0.214]	0.244 [0.277]	−0.878*** [0.338]
Trade/GDP	0.586* [0.352]	0.144 [0.201]	−1.126*** [0.310]	0.814** [0.359]
Observations	240	240	240	240
R-squared	0.305	0.239	0.036	0.226
Panel C: 2SLS with continent dummies				
Imm. rate	−0.0912 [0.447]	1.030*** [0.309]	−0.0639 [0.382]	−1.101** [0.454]
Trade/GDP	0.679 [0.534]	−0.152 [0.335]	−0.749 [0.464]	1.078** [0.524]
Observations	240	240	240	240
R-squared	0.317	0.19	0.146	0.228

Note: Units of observations are OECD countries by year over the period 1998–2007. The immigration rate is the ratio of new immigrants to the total population at the beginning of the year. All specifications include year dummies. Regressions including the immigration rate in the right-hand-side also include immigration-data-source dummies. Standard errors (in brackets) are robust to heteroskedasticity

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

short-run effects of trade are rather fragile while the positive effect of immigrants on employment rate and the zero effect of immigration on income per capita are somewhat more robust.

5.2 Net Immigration Flows

A criticism that applies to our previous estimates and to many aggregate studies attempting to estimate the effects of immigration on income is that they use gross inflows as a proxy for net inflows. This is a data limitation arising from the fact that, in most countries, foreigners settling in the country have an obligation to register their arrival. However, those leaving the country often do not have the obligation and simply do not report their departure. As a result, the governments of the

Table 7 Effects of immigration and trade. Long balanced panel

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP/Pop})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{Emp/POP})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{K/Emp})$	$\Delta \ln \text{TFP}$
Panel A: OLS				
Imm. rate	0.370 [0.257]	0.506* [0.275]	-0.460 [0.294]	0.0160 [0.307]
Trade/GDP	0.508** [0.209]	0.456** [0.190]	-0.655*** [0.211]	0.269 [0.243]
Observations	440	440	440	440
R-squared	0.348	0.198	0.180	0.279
Panel B: 2SLS				
Imm. rate	0.622 [0.751]	1.574*** [0.547]	0.255 [0.561]	-1.036 [0.886]
Trade/GDP	0.261 [0.448]	-0.0988 [0.351]	-0.887** [0.369]	0.653 [0.551]
Observations	440	440	440	440
R-squared	0.345	0.129	0.156	0.251
Panel C: 2SLS with continent dummies				
Imm. rate	0.715 [1.415]	2.272*** [0.852]	0.572 [0.741]	-1.746 [1.712]
Trade/GDP	0.116 [0.952]	-0.651 [0.586]	-0.771 [0.526]	1.021 [1.175]
Observations	440	440	440	440
R-squared	0.344	0.031	0.205	0.218

Note: The sample contains an almost balanced panel of 18 OECD countries over the period 1980–2007. The immigration rate is the ratio of new immigrants to the total population at the beginning of the year. Each specification includes year dummies and immigration-data-source dummies. Standard errors are heteroskedasticity-robust

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

immigration countries lack accurate data on immigrant outflows. Only data obtained from detailed censuses of residents and not those compiled annually by population registries, can measure net immigration.

Exceptionally, a few studies have used special data to report high re-migration (return) rates of immigrants in the UK (Dustmann and Weiss 2007) and in the US (Lalonde and Topel 1993) but it remains hard to obtain comprehensive data for a large number of countries. The IMD data produced by the OECD partially addresses this issue since it contains data both on gross inflows and outflows for the period 1998–2007 by country of origin. These estimates are based on cancellations of immigrants from local registers and from estimates of the change in the stock of immigrants between two points in time. Using these data we construct the yearly net immigration rates (inflow minus outflow of foreign individuals by country of origin). While surely not perfect, due to the under-registration of the departing migrants, these data go at least part of the way in constructing the ideal variable that should be used to estimate the effects of immigration on the economic outcomes of the receiving country.

Table 8 Effects of immigration and trade. Net immigration

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP/Pop})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{Emp/POP})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{K/Emp})$	$\Delta \ln \text{TFP}$
Panel A: OLS				
Net imm. rate	0.306 [0.381]	1.050*** [0.222]	0.499* [0.293]	−0.479 [0.303]
Trade/GDP	0.967*** [0.256]	0.519*** [0.147]	−0.631*** [0.177]	0.395* [0.237]
Observations	177	175	172	172
R-squared	0.337	0.338	0.159	0.215
Panel B: Two-stage least squares				
Net imm. rate	0.617 [0.598]	1.558*** [0.417]	0.438 [0.513]	−1.086* [0.628]
Trade/GDP	0.504* [0.293]	0.504*** [0.167]	−1.022*** [0.229]	0.337 [0.294]
Observations	170	170	170	170
R-squared	0.332	0.328	0.128	0.209
Panel C: 2SLS with continent dummies				
Net imm. rate	0.746 [0.723]	1.798*** [0.542]	0.523 [0.705]	−1.225 [0.753]
Trade/GDP	0.306 [0.391]	0.403 [0.253]	−1.110*** [0.343]	0.269 [0.394]
Observations	170	170	170	170
R-squared	0.345	0.308	0.122	0.23

Note: The sample contains all 30 OECD countries over the period 1998–2007. The immigration rate is the ratio of new immigrants to the total population at the beginning of the year. Each specification includes year dummies and immigration-data-source dummies. Standard errors are heteroskedasticity-robust

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Table 8 reports OLS and 2SLS estimates of our models using our measure of net immigration (relative to population). We report the estimates only for our most preferred specification featuring both immigration and trade openness as regressors and continent dummies. Three points are worth emphasizing. First, the net immigration rates are also predicted rather well by the gravity instrument.²² Second, the pattern of the 2SLS estimates on the effects of immigration is largely consistent with our previous findings (columns 1 and 2, panels B and C). Immigration has no effect on income per person in the short run. It increases the employment rate but it reduces TFP by a similar amount. The results on trade openness are roughly similar to our earlier findings.

²² The F statistic associated to the first-stage regression is above 70 in all specifications and each coefficient is individually highly significant.

5.3 *Longer Time Intervals*

So far our results represent short-run effects, in the sense that our dependent variables were annual log changes. One may have several concerns regarding this relatively high frequency. First, it may take some time until the effects of immigration on economic outcomes become measurable. Moreover, there may be a complicated pattern of auto-correlation in the error terms. In order to address these concerns we re-estimate our models using longer differences and, more specifically, 4-year periods. While this is not yet a long time-difference that would allow us to identify the long-run effects, it does ameliorate the previous concerns.

Table 9 reports the estimates of the models with the longer time differences. The top panel reports OLS estimates and the middle and bottom panels report 2SLS estimates, with and without continent dummies. Again, the main pattern observed earlier regarding the effects of immigration survives this robustness check. Immigration does not affect income per person. Moreover, the employment rate increases with approximately a unit elasticity and TFP falls by a similar magnitude. Our estimates for the effects of trade openness are less precise than in our main set of estimates. Standard errors here are about ten times larger than in Table 5.²³ Even though the signs of the point estimates are the same as those in Table 5 we cannot reject the null hypothesis of zero effects of trade openness in any of the columns in panel C.

5.4 *Limitations of the Instrumental-Variables Strategy*

We next discuss two limitations of our approach. First, we wish to examine to what extent our results depend on the specific set of destination countries (OECD) included in our analysis. We note that these countries are relatively homogeneous in a number of dimensions, implying an important challenge for our pseudo-gravity predictors for immigration and trade flows arising from the limited cross-sectional variation in geography and demographics of the origin countries. To evaluate these issues we have conducted our analysis omitting a number of countries and we have found that omitting Luxembourg, a country with large actual and predicted trade flows and immigration rates weakens the results by significantly reducing the predictive power of our instruments, both in the case of immigration and trade openness. Table 12 in the Appendix shows that the OLS estimates still exhibit a significant effect of immigration on the employment rate and of trade openness on income per person. However, in our 2SLS estimates those effects are no longer significant (they maintain however the sign of those in Table 5). This sensitivity of the gravity-based instruments to the omission of Luxembourg from the sample was

²³ Interestingly, the standard errors for the estimates of the effects of immigration are less than twice as large as in the annual models. This is a relatively modest increase given the large reduction in the number of observations.

Table 9 Effects of immigration and trade. Long differences

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP/Pop})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{Emp/POP})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{K/Emp})$	$\Delta \ln \text{TFP}$
Panel A: OLS				
Imm. rate	−0.370 [0.323]	0.373* [0.210]	−0.614*** [0.232]	−0.399 [0.280]
Trade/GDP	4.618*** [1.396]	1.745** [0.814]	−1.296 [1.008]	2.449** [1.189]
Observations	117	117	116	116
R-squared	0.337	0.292	0.309	0.150
Panel B: Two-stage least squares				
Imm. rate	−0.256 [0.503]	1.112*** [0.408]	−0.0405 [0.412]	−1.191** [0.522]
Trade/GDP	3.312* [1.930]	−0.242 [1.345]	−3.104** [1.547]	3.852* [2.181]
Observations	117	117	116	116
R-squared	0.331	0.196	0.276	0.096
Panel C: 2SLS with continent dummies				
Imm. rate	−0.402 [0.738]	1.264** [0.516]	−0.0718 [0.511]	−1.443* [0.745]
Trade/GDP	3.414 [3.221]	−1.012 [1.814]	−2.619 [2.117]	4.418 [3.344]
Observations	117	117	116	116
R-squared	0.349	0.155	0.350	0.099

Note: The units of observations are all 30 OECD countries over the period 1980–2007. All specifications include period dummies. Standard errors are robust to heteroskedasticity. Each period is the aggregate of four years: 1982–1986, 1986–1990, ..., 2002–2006

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

also noted by Frankel and Romer (1999) who argued in favor of keeping Luxembourg in the sample in order to take advantage of the identification power deriving from it.

A second interesting issue is whether the employment and productivity effects of immigration and trade depend on the fact that a large part of those flows are with other OECD countries. In this respect we conduct our analysis using only the bilateral trade and migration flows between OECD destinations and non-OECD origins. Table 13 in the appendix reports the resulting estimates. Clearly, standard errors are much larger now than for our main set of estimates (Table 5). The reason is that a large part of the strength of our instrument comes from the predicted (trade and immigration) flows among OECD countries.²⁴ At any rate, the 2SLS estimates still reveal no significant effects of immigration rates on income per person and a

²⁴ Recall that a large share of international trade flows is intra-industry trade among similarly developed countries.

positive effect on the employment rate that is offset by a negative effect on TFP. Likewise, we find a marginally significant positive effect of trade openness on GDP per person. However the estimates of trade effects become too unstable to be taken seriously. In conclusion, it is mainly OECD-OECD trade flows and that play a large role in delivering a strong set of instruments.²⁵ However the direction of the effects of trade and migration is similar, with migration stimulating employment rates and trade stimulating TFP growth.

6 Conclusions

This paper asks a central question in international economics: how do international flows of people and goods affect economic performance? There are many competing theories that address these questions, differing in their emphasis on the roles of factor differences, technology, product variety, and so on. All these theories have predictions regarding the effects of international trade and migration on income per person and its determinants. Nevertheless, there are practically no cross-country studies providing *joint* estimates of the effects of trade *and* migration on income per person and, more specifically, on employment rates, capital intensity and total factor productivity. One reason for this has been the lack of adequate international migration data.

Since the pioneering work of Frankel and Romer (1999), several authors have empirically analyzed the effect of international trade on income per person (e.g. Rodriguez and Rodrik 2001; Frankel and Rose 2002; Cavallo and Frankel 2008; Noguer and Siscart 2005). They have mostly focused on the long run and on level effects. Moreover, by ignoring the role of international migration flows, those studies suffer an important limitation. Many of the determinants of trade flows, particularly relative geography, are also well known to determine migration flows. As a result, it is hard to know whether the existing estimates of the effects of international trade on income in those studies are the result of a spurious correlation mediated by migration flows.

In this paper we have assembled a large country-level dataset and estimated a series of demanding econometric specifications. Our results do not provide clear evidence of a short-run effect of trade or migration on income per capita. However, the decomposition we carry out shows that there are opposing effects at play. In the case of trade openness, we find that it leads to an increase in TFP but also to an offsetting reduction in the country's aggregate capital intensity. Our interpretation

²⁵ The F statistics associated to the first-stage regressions in this restricted sample are substantially lower than in the main sample. Specifically, it is 33 for the predicted immigration rate and below 9 for the predicted trade openness.

is that trade openness both improves the allocation of resources within industries (as emphasized by Melitz 2003) and increases the degree of specialization of OECD countries in industries with lower capital intensity, but perhaps high knowledge intensity.

In the case of immigration, we find that there is a large and positive effect on the employment rate of the receiving country. However, at the same time, the country's TFP level is reduced, and both effects roughly compensate each other. In our view this finding is in line with the conclusions of the recent immigration literature. Immigration increases the host country's employment rate in two ways. First, it is possible that because of their demographic characteristics the newly arrived immigrants display higher employment rates than natives. but, in addition, the inflow of immigrants may also be increasing the demand for native labor, as emphasized by Manacorda et al. (2012), Ottaviano et al. (2013), Chassamboulli and Palivos (2010). It is also possible that the new inflows of workers may have shifted the incentives for household production among natives, resulting in an increase in the labor supply of (female) natives, as argued by Cortés and Tessada (2011) in the context of the US, and by Farré et al. (2011) in Europe. Some of the newly created jobs may be located in the service sector (restaurants, household services, child and elderly care, and so on), which tends to have lower productivity (levels and growth) than some other sectors. It is also possible that the average education level of immigrants may be below that of natives, or that the newly arrived immigrants are underemployed or suffer skill downgrading for some time, as noted by Dustmann et al. (2013). All these reasons can account for the negative short-run effect on TFP.

This paper is one of the very first attempts at exploiting the year-to-year, variation in immigration and trade flows to estimate their impact on average income in a panel of countries. While we believe we have obtained some interesting results, our findings are inconclusive regarding some relationships of interest. Future research should explore these relationships further. As more data becomes available and longer periods of time can be explored, the effects of trade and migration should become sharper.

Appendix

Table 10 Number of immigration sending countries recorded in the bilateral data constructed by Ortega and Peri (2009)

Country	1980	1990	2000	2007
Australia	54	156	195	196
Austria			160	17
Belgium	26	29	68	33
Canada	161	176	196	199
Czech Republic			13	32
Denmark	118	123	143	174
Finland	83	7	71	203
France		11	201	203
Germany	103	104	192	194
Great Britain		78	103	93
Greece ^a				
Hungary			33	201
Ireland ^b			2	2
Italy	24	30	182	36
Japan	12	12	10	202
Korea			10	28
Luxembourg		9	201	203
Mexico				125
Netherlands	17	14	198	160
New Zealand	10	50	50	201
Norway	100	149	200	202
Poland			61	89
Portugal			16	24
Slovakia				191
Spain	24	42	157	198
Sweden	134	149	165	193
Switzerland		12	34	32
Turkey			200	200
USA	182	192	211	181

Note: The database is constructed by merging data from the Ortega and Peri (2009), the United Nations (2005) and the IMD databases as described in the text

^aGreece has only data for 1998

^bIreland reports immigrants from individual country only for the US and the UK

Table 11 Sources of the immigration data

Country	Sources of the data		
	Ortega and Peri (2009)	United Nations	International Migration Database
Australia	1983–2005	1960–2004	1998–2007
Austria	n.a.	n.a.	1998–2007
Belgium	1984–2005	1960–2003	1998–2007
Canada	1980–2005	1961–2004	1998–2007
Czech Republic	n.a.	n.a.	1998–2007
Denmark	1990–2004	1980–2004	1998–2007
Finland	n.a.	1980–2004	1998–2007
France	1984–2005	1994–2003	1998–2007
Greece	n.a.	n.a.	1998–2007
Germany	1984–2005	1965–2004	1998–2007
Hungary	n.a.	n.a.	1998–2007
Ireland	n.a.	n.a.	1998–2007
Italy	n.a.	1980–2000	1998–2007
Japan	1980–2005	n.a.	1998–2007
Korea	n.a.	n.a.	1998–2007
Luxembourg	1983–2005	n.a.	1998–2007
Mexico	n.a.	n.a.	1998–2007
Netherlands	1984–2005	1960–2004	1998–2007
New Zealand	n.a.	1950–2004	1998–2007
Norway	1984–2005	1980–2003	1998–2007
Poland	n.a.	n.a.	1998–2007
Portugal	n.a.	n.a.	1998–2007
Slovak Republic	n.a.	n.a.	2003–2007
Spain	n.a.	1980–2004	1998–2007
Sweden	1980–2005	1960–2004	1998–2007
Switzerland	1984–2005	n.a.	1998–2007
Turkey	n.a.	n.a.	1998–2007
United Kingdom	1982–2006	1964–2003	1998–2001
United States	1980–2006	1946–2004	1998–2007

Table 12 The effects of immigration and trade openness. Sample excludes Luxembourg

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP}/\text{Pop})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{Emp}/\text{POP})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{K}/\text{Emp})$	$\Delta \ln \text{TFP}$
Panel A: OLS				
Imm. rate	0.477 [0.360]	0.349* [0.183]	0.343 [0.244]	0.0223 [0.401]
Trade/GDP	8.187*** [1.234]	1.349* [0.809]	-3.916*** [0.956]	7.836*** [1.286]
Observations	520	512	511	511
R-squared	0.518	0.234	0.435	0.395
Panel B: Two-stage least squares				
Imm. rate	0.561 [0.880]	0.577 [0.678]	-0.791 [0.786]	0.322 [0.855]
Trade/GDP	0.101 [0.384]	0.0504 [0.228]	-1.015*** [0.298]	0.318 [0.365]
Observations	512	512	504	504
R-squared	0.327	0.140	0.218	0.274

Note: The units of observations are all OECD countries, excluding Luxembourg over the period 1980–2007. The immigration rate is the ratio of new immigrants to the total population at the beginning of the year. Each specification includes year fixed effects and we use the imputed trade and immigration as instruments. Standard errors are heteroskedasticity-robust

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Table 13 The effects of immigration and trade. Excludes OECD-OECD migration

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{GDP}/\text{Pop})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{Emp}/\text{POP})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{K}/\text{Emp})$	$\Delta \ln \text{TFP}$
Panel A: OLS				
Imm. rate	-0.331 [0.462]	0.751 [0.249]	0.0571 [0.363]	-0.705 [0.454]
Trade/GDP	-3.402* [1.975]	2.128 [1.493]	-6.869*** [2.011]	-2.778 [2.045]
Observations	521	512	512	512
R-squared	0.346	0.135	0.177	0.279
Panel B: Two-stage least-squares				
Imm. rate	2.143 [3.175]	7.963** [3.581]	-5.593* [2.957]	-3.119* [1.832]
Trade/GDP	47.83* [24.45]	52.97* [28.00]	-40.47* [21.69]	3.895 [13.38]
Observations	512	512	504	504

Note: The units of observations are all OECD countries over the period 1998–2007. The immigration rate is the ratio of new immigrants to the total population at the beginning of the year. Immigration rates and trade/GDP ratios are calculated including only non-OECD countries as countries of origin of migrants or trading partners. Each specification includes year fixed effects and we use the imputed trade and immigration as instruments. Standard errors are heteroskedasticity robust

*** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

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