# All Economics Is Local: Spatial Aggregations of Economic Information

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## Robustness Checks

This section provides some additional empirical models discussed—though not presented—in the manuscript.

### Unemployment Change

In the manuscript we discussed a counter-intuitive finding where worsening national unemployment actually improved economic evaluations. We argued that this finding was a function of the extremely unique configuration of national economic conditions in 2009 and 2010 where recovery in the national economy (in terms of productivity) occurred prior to the recovery in employment. As a result, these unique years where the national economy is improving coincided with worsening employment.

In Table 1 we exclude 2009 and 2010 from the two models presented in the manuscript. As expected, excluding these years flips the coefficient for *national unemployment change* so that the finding is consistent with our original expectations.

[Table 1 about here]

# Temporal Effects

One research question that was not explored in the manuscript due to limited space has an important temporal dimension. Do voters evaluate the economy based on current economic conditions, or those from the previous year? To assess this possibility, we lagged the state-level economic conditions (and spatial lag) by one-year. We expect our results to be robust to this change. Indeed, Table 2 shows that the results are consistent with those in our manuscript, though it should be noted that the magnitude of the coefficients is smaller and the goodness of fit statistic (AIC) implies a worse fit.

[Table 2 about here]

# Tables & Figures

Table 1: Ordered Logit Estimates of National Economic Evaluations using Media Mentions and Economic Similarity $\mathbf{W}$ specifications: Excluding 2009-2010

| | **Media** | | **Similarity** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | $\beta$ | $S.E.$ | $\beta$ | $S.E.$ |
| $\Delta$ GSP pc | $-0.055$ | $0.004$ | $-0.013$ | $0.004$ |
| $\Delta$ GSP pc $\times \mathbf{W}$ | $-0.639$ | $0.009$ | $-1.007$ | $0.013$ |
| In-Party | $-0.853$ | $0.021$ | $-0.858$ | $0.021$ |
| Out-Party | $0.353$ | $0.021$ | $0.374$ | $0.021$ |
| Presidential Approval | $-2.437$ | $0.020$ | $-2.457$ | $0.020$ |
| Age | $0.006$ | $< 0.001$ | $0.006$ | $< 0.001$ |
| Male | $-0.425$ | $0.013$ | $-0.433$ | $0.013$ |
| Non-white | $0.079$ | $0.016$ | $0.091$ | $0.016$ |
| Union Member | $0.056$ | $0.018$ | $0.032$ | $0.018$ |
| College Educated | $-0.329$ | $0.014$ | $-0.346$ | $0.014$ |
| Married | $-0.015$ | $0.014$ | $-0.007$ | $0.014$ |
| Unemployed | $0.551$ | $0.027$ | $0.529$ | $0.027$ |
| Homeowner | $-0.123$ | $0.016$ | $-0.094$ | $0.016$ |
| $\Delta$National Unemployment | $0.733$ | $0.023$ | $0.154$ | $0.028$ |
| National Inflation | $0.163$ | $0.016$ | $0.485$ | $0.017$ |
| $\tau_1$ | $-5.517$ | $0.058$ | $-5.573$ | $0.059$ |
| $\tau_2$ | $-3.758$ | $0.057$ | $-3.797$ | $0.057$ |
| AIC | 177,786 | | 176,664 | |
| N | 137,556 | | 203,808 | |

*Note:* DV = *economic evaluations* (1=Better, 2=Same, 3=Worse).

Table 2: Ordered Logit Estimates of National Economic Evaluations using Media Mentions and Economic Similarity $\mathbf{W}$ specifications: Lagging State-Level Conditions

| | **Media** | | **Similarity** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | $\beta$ | $S.E.$ | $\beta$ | $S.E.$ |
| $\Delta$ GSP $\text{pc}_{t-1}$ | $-0.004$ | $0.002$ | $-0.014$ | $0.002$ |
| $\Delta$ GSP $\text{pc}_{t-1} \times \mathbf{W}$ | $-0.186$ | $0.003$ | $-0.183$ | $0.003$ |
| In-Party | $-0.638$ | $0.016$ | $-0.636$ | $0.016$ |
| Out-Party | $0.259$ | $0.016$ | $0.257$ | $0.016$ |
| Presidential Approval | $-1.819$ | $0.014$ | $-1.811$ | $0.014$ |
| Age | $0.006$ | $< 0.001$ | $0.007$ | $< 0.001$ |
| Male | $-0.325$ | $0.010$ | $-0.325$ | $0.010$ |
| Non-white | $0.061$ | $0.012$ | $0.067$ | $0.012$ |
| Union Member | $0.048$ | $0.013$ | $0.052$ | $0.013$ |
| College Educated | $-0.196$ | $0.010$ | $-0.190$ | $0.010$ |
| Married | $-0.039$ | $0.011$ | $-0.039$ | $0.011$ |
| Unemployed | $0.487$ | $0.019$ | $0.493$ | $0.019$ |
| Homeowner | $-0.178$ | $0.012$ | $-0.182$ | $0.012$ |
| $\Delta$National Unemployment | $0.462$ | $0.005$ | $0.435$ | $0.005$ |
| National Inflation | $1.086$ | $0.007$ | $1.033$ | $0.007$ |
| $\tau_1$ | $-0.347$ | $0.027$ | $-0.488$ | $0.027$ |
| $\tau_2$ | $1.120$ | $0.027$ | $0.972$ | $0.027$ |
| AIC | 318,213 | | 319,180 | |
| N | 203,808 | | 203,808 | |

*Note:* DV = *economic evaluations* (1=Better, 2=Same, 3=Worse).