

# Economic Impacts of the Green Transition: Evidence from Korean Gas Stations

Ian Choi, Soojin Jo, **Jaehyeok Lee**, and Myungkyu Shim

Yonsei University

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## Motivation

- Global shift towards sustainable transportation solutions, such as electric vehicles (EVs)
- Escalating importance of establishing efficient and widespread charging networks
- Prominent growth in the number of EV chargers (Bakker et al. 2014, Campbell et al. 2012, Kim et al. 2022)

## What are the economic consequences of EV charger growth on Korean traditional fuel retail industry?

## Research Questions

How does the change in the number of EV chargers affect

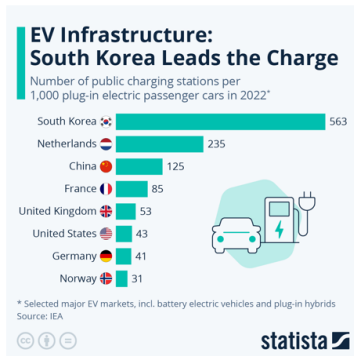
- i. average retail gasoline price
- ii. average retail diesel price
- iii. number of gas stations

in the same cities, counties, or districts (*Si-Gun-Gu*)?

**Contribution:** first to analyze the causal impacts of increasing EV chargers on nearby gas stations

## Why South Korea?

Korea provides an ideal setting for investigating the impacts of the growing EV charging industry





# Data

### Regional Level Variation: *city-county-districts*

- Gas station data: Oil Price Information Network (Opinet)
- EV charger data: Pollution-free vehicle integrated website

Info. on EV chargers for other years than 2023 is unavailable

- Absence of EV chargers in Korea before 2011

⇒ **Charger counts of 2023 = growth of charger counts from 2011 to 2023**

Normalize by a  $km^2$  of city area

- Higher EV charger and gas station counts are concentrated in metropolitan cities
- Normalization by city area of each region reduces this concentration

⇒ Leveraging the normalized variations

## Panel Analysis?

- Ideally, it would be best to use the # EVs as the explanatory variable.
- However, city-county level data is only available for the recent few years.
- Panel analysis using this available data yields robust results.

## Econometric Specification

$$\Delta \ln(Y_{ij(11-23)}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \frac{\Delta EV C_{ij(11-23)}}{CityArea_i} + \mathbf{X}_{ij11}' \beta_2 + \Delta \ln(\mathbf{X}_{ij(11-23)})' \beta_3 + \gamma_j + \epsilon_{ij(11-23)}$$

$Y_{ij}$ : outcome variable in region  $i$ , belonging to the Living Zone  $j$

- average gasoline price
- average diesel price
- number of gas stations per 1 square kilometer

⇒  $\Delta \ln(Y_{ij(11-23)}) \approx$  growth rate of  $Y_{ij}$  value from 2011 to 2023

$\Delta EVC_{jj(11-23)} / CityArea_i$ : main independent variable

- change in the number of EV chargers per a  $km^2$  of city area from 2011 to 2023

$r_j$ : Living Zone fixed effects

## Econometric Specification

$$\Delta \ln(Y_{ij(11-23)}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \frac{\Delta EVC_{ij(11-23)}}{City\ Area_i} + \mathbf{X}_{ij11}' \beta_2 + \Delta \ln(\mathbf{X}_{ij(11-23)})' \beta_3 + \gamma_j + \epsilon_{ij(11-23)}$$

$X_{j11}'$ : controls measured in 2011

 $\Delta \ln(\mathbf{X}_{ij(11-23)})'$ : change in the logged controls during the 13-year period

- Demographic, local vehicle demand, gas station competition level, average wage and wealth, real estate prices
- Controls for the maximum available set of control variables, including both predetermined levels and contemporary changes.

Regression weights: population in 2011

Standard errors clustered by Living Zones



# Instrumental Variable Approach

## Act on the Promotion of Development and Distribution of Environmentally Friendly Vehicles

- Requires a certain percentage of parking spaces in large newly built apartment complexes to be equipped with EV chargers.
- Amendments extended this requirement to existing apartments, **mandating that at least 2% of their parking spaces include chargers.**



## IV First Stage

### Table: First-Stage Regression

Dependent Variable: $\Delta EVC_{ij(11-23)}$	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$IV_i$	0.023*** (0.001)	0.012*** (0.002)	0.014*** (0.001)	0.014*** (0.001)
Predetermined		✓	✓	✓
Contemporary Change			✓	✓
LZ FE				✓
$R^2_{adj}$	0.679	0.791	0.830	0.803
F-Stat	1,140.33	33.20	103.77	173.11
Obs.	228	228	228	228

Notes: \* $p < 0.10$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.01$



## Effect on Gasoline & Diesel Prices

## Spillover Effect

- In areas where the number of EV chargers has significantly increased, gasoline vehicle owners may benefit from decreased prices and the corresponding rise in real income

Significant drop in both gasoline prices and diesel prices

- EVs predominantly replace gasoline vehicles (Xing et al., 2021).
  - Characteristics of vehicles based on fuel types
    - Gasoline vehicles primarily belong to passenger vehicles, plus, in Korea, roughly 30 percent of diesel vehicles are actually passenger cars.
    - Most EVs in Korea belong to passenger vehicles, but the number of electric trucks cannot be ignored. ▶ Table
    - A program offering free commercial license plates for electric trucks has been implemented in Korea.
- ⇒ Korea's unique policy established a substitutional relationship with diesel vehicles.





**Table:** Independent Variable: Subsidized New EV Purchases

Notes: \* $p < 0.10$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.01$

## Public Transportation Accessibility

**Table:** Results with Public Transportation and Commuting Time Controls

Dependent Variable	$\Delta \ln(\text{Avg. Gasoline Price})$			$\Delta \ln(\text{Avg. Diesel Price})$			$\Delta \ln(\# \text{ Gas Stations})$		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
$\Delta EVC$	-0.050*** (0.008)	-0.062*** (0.014)	-0.100*** (0.018)	-0.060*** (0.012)	-0.075*** (0.016)	-0.114*** (0.022)	-0.003 (0.010)	0.003 (0.016)	0.005 (0.019)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LZ FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Transportation Controls</b>									
Controls 1	✓			✓			✓		
Controls 2		✓			✓			✓	
Controls 3			✓			✓			✓
F-stat	364.63	227.74	81.84	364.63	227.74	81.84	382.02	209.11	47.11
Obs.	228	223	228	228	223	228	228	223	228

1. municipality-level average access times to major facilities
2. municipality-level number of public transit users and transit volumes
3. survey-based province-level population shares by public transportation access time, transit use frequency, and monthly transit cost categories



# Concluding Remarks

- ✓ We analyze the causal regional impacts of increasing EV chargers on the vehicle fuel retail industry.
- ✓ 100 additional chargers per city area lowered gasoline & diesel prices by 7.4% and 8.7%, but no impact on gas station numbers.
- ✓ Regions with more EV chargers installed experienced actual declines in internal combustion engine vehicle demand.
- ✓ Panel analysis using EV purchases as the explanatory variable also yielded consistent and robust results: regions with higher EV purchases showed fuel price declines with no impact on gas station numbers.
- ✓ Results remained robust even when controlling for public transportation accessibility in each region.

## Concluding Remark

# Thank You

## Motivation

“The *decline* in gas stations appears to be due to business challenges stemming from the

increased adoption of eco-friendly vehicles such as electric vehicles.”

(Korean Petroleum Quality & Distribution Authority, 2023.04)

**“With the increase in electric vehicles,** approximately three-quarters of the current gas stations nationwide will *shut down* by 2040.”

(Korea Energy Economics Institute, 2023.05)

These issues are closely related to the...

- ⇒ spillover effects of emerging industries on traditional industries
- ⇒ transition risks associated with conventional energy sources

A scatter plot showing the relationship between the number of EV chargers in 2023 (X-axis) and the number of subsidized EV purchases in 2023 (Y-axis). The X-axis ranges from 0 to 15,000, and the Y-axis ranges from 0 to 4,000. The data points are represented by circles of varying sizes, indicating a positive correlation. A linear regression line is drawn through the data points, showing a strong positive trend.

(a)

A scatter plot showing the relationship between the number of EV chargers in 2023 (X-axis) and the number of subsidized EV purchases in 2021-2023 (Y-axis). The X-axis ranges from 0 to 15,000, and the Y-axis ranges from 0 to 20,000. A positive linear trend is visible, with a regression line fitted to the data points. The data points are represented by circles of varying sizes, indicating the magnitude of the variables.

(b)

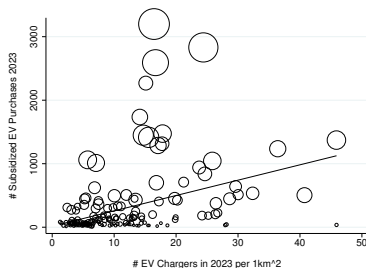
# EV chargers 2023 ↔ # subsidized EV purchases  
2021 - 2023





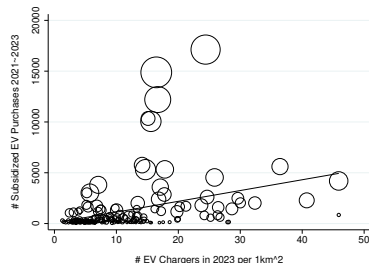
## Evidence for Assumption 1

Number of EV Chargers per  $1\text{km}^2$  of City Area and Subsidized EV purchases at the City- and County-Levels



(a)

2023 ↔ 2023



(b)

$$2023 \leftrightarrow 2021 - 2023$$

(a)

(b)

# Summary Statistics (Gas Stations)

**Table:** Descriptive Statistics of Changes in Average Gasoline/Diesel Prices, and in the Number of Gas Stations from 2011 to 2023

	number of obs.	mean	std. dev.	min.	max
△ gasoline price (in KRW)	228	-280.02	41.44	-388.17	38.86
△ diesel price (in KRW)	228	-178.71	42.51	-259.73	131.12
△ # gas stations	228	-8.74	9.34	-56	8
△ # gas stations per 1km <sup>2</sup> of city area	228	-0.20	0.23	-1.08	0.35

*Notes:* The units of observations are cities, counties, and districts. In the fourth row, “city area” refers to the area of a region excluding agricultural, forestry, and natural environmental conservation zones. Sejong city is excluded since it did not formally exist in 2011. All dependent variables were calculated after averaging them on an annual basis.

# Summary Statistics - EV Chargers

**Table:** Descriptive Statistics of Changes in the Number of EV Chargers from 2011 to 2023

	number of obs.	mean	std. dev.	min.	max
Δ# EV chargers	228	1,095.09	1,207.21	26	6,990
Δ# AC EV chargers	228	964.97	1,109.59	5	6,622
Δ# DC EV chargers	228	100.14	89.27	8	730
<i>per 1km<sup>2</sup> of city area</i>					
Δ# EV chargers	228	21.04	24.44	1.31	143.29
Δ# AC EV chargers	228	18.23	22.93	0.44	135.57
Δ# DC EV chargers	228	2.23	1.95	0.21	13.54

*Notes:* The units of observations are cities, counties, and districts. In the second panel, “city area” refers to the area of a region excluding agricultural, forestry, and natural environmental conservation zones. Sejong city is excluded from the sample.

# Data Sources (Control Variables)

Regional-level (city, county, district)

- **Demographic Data:** Year-Centered Census Data, Population and Housing Census, National Statistics Office
- **Vehicle Registration Status Data:** Vehicle Registration Status Report, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport, Korea
- **Real Estate Market Price data:** Transaction Price Disclosure System, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Korea
- **Labor income related data:**
  - Local Area Labor Force Survey, National Statistical Office
  - Korean Labor Income Panel Study (KLIPS), Korea Labor Institute
- **Production data:** GRDP and Total Value Added, Regional Production Statistics, National Statistics Office

# EV Purchases by Age Groups

▶ Back

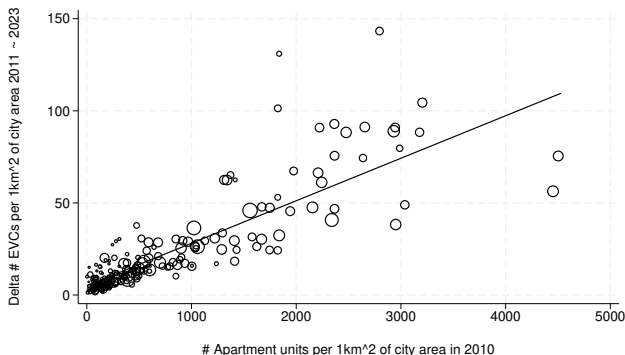
**Table:** Electric Vehicle Registration Status by Age Group at the End of 2021

Age Group	# Registered EVs	Percentage
- 10s	60	0.0%
20s	3,886	2.5%
30s	26,469	16.7%
40s	45,091	28.5%
50s	43,207	27.3%
60s	31,793	20.1%
70s	7,173	4.5%
80s	639	0.4%
90s -	65	0.0%
Total	158,383	100%

# Living Zone (LZ) System

- Created by the Statistics Development Institute of the National Statistical Office
- Structured based on the fact that economic activities and living areas transcend administrative boundaries
- Consists of 55 mutually exclusive regions targeting the actual living areas of residents
- Can be used to control for the unobserved heterogeneity across the actual living spaces (Park et al. 2023)
  - ⇒ In our specific research context, used to mitigate estimation bias caused by the potential movement of residents from one area to another for refueling

# IV First Stage



Each circle: region (circle size: population in 2011)

Straight line: weighted linear fit

# IV Falsification Tests

[noframenumbering] Examine whether the IV is significantly correlated with the pre-period (2008-2010) changes in the outcome variables

Table: Falsification Tests

Dependent Variable	$\Delta \ln(\text{Gasoline Price } 2008 \sim 2010)$		$\Delta \ln(\text{Diesel Price } 2008 \sim 2010)$		$\Delta \ln(\# \text{ Gas Stations } 2008 \sim 2010)$	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
$IV_i$	0.041 (0.047)	0.115 (0.070)	-0.040 (0.079)	-0.097 (0.117)	0.145 (0.093)	0.156 (0.103)
Predetermined (2008)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Contemporary Change (2008-2010)		✓		✓		✓
LZ FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
$R^2_{adj}$	0.008	0.078	0.405	0.424	0.479	0.482
Obs.	228	228	228	228	228	228

Notes: \* $p < 0.10$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.01$

# Average Gasoline Price - Positive Spillover Effect

- A simple back-of-the-envelope calculation:

*Consider a representative gasoline vehicle owner who drives as much as average annual mileage with average fuel efficiency...*

- If the owner refuels in an area that has witnessed the installation of the average number EVCs per  $1\text{km}^2$  over the 13-year period, the effect would be **KRW 417,339 (USD 300)**
- If the owner refuels in an area that has witnessed the installation of the maximum number EVCs per  $1\text{km}^2$  over the 13-year period, the effect would be **KRW 2,841,877 (USD 2,030)**

► Calculation

## Back-of-the-Envelope Calculation

- Benefit for a representative owner refuels in an area that has witnessed the installation of 21 (average) EVCs per  $1\text{km}^2$  over the 13-year period

$$[(\text{KRW } 1,928/\ell \times 0.074)] \times \left(\frac{21}{100}\right) \times \left(\frac{10,366 \text{ km} \times 13}{9.6744 \text{ km}/\ell}\right) = \text{KRW } 417,339 \quad (1)$$

( $\approx \text{USD } 300$ )

- Benefit for a representative owner refuels in an area that has witnessed the installation of 143 (max) EVCs per  $1\text{km}^2$  over the 13-year period

$$[(\text{KRW } 1,928/\ell \times 0.074)] \times \left(\frac{143}{100}\right) \times \left(\frac{10,366 \text{ km} \times 13}{9.6744 \text{ km}/\ell}\right) = \text{KRW } 2,841,877 \quad (2)$$

( $\approx \text{USD } 2,030$ )

average gasoline price per liter (in 2011 Korea)

effect of EVC growth (coefficient estimate)

average annual mileage for gasoline vehicles (in 2022 Korea)

average fuel economy of gasoline vehicles (purchased b/w 2001 and 2024 Korea)

# Subsidized EV Vehicle Types

▶ Back

**Table:** Annual Number of Subsidized EV Purchases from 2021 to 2023 by Vehicle Types

Vehicle Type	2021 (1)	2022 (2)	2023 (3)	Year Average (2021~2023) (4)
Passengers Vehicle	65,583 (69.823%)	109,806 (74.307%)	94,792 (67.687%)	90,060.333 (70.775%)
Van (Electric Bus)	1,335 (1.421%)	1,688 (1.142%)	2,034 (1.452%)	1,685.667 (1.325%)
Truck	27,010 (28.756%)	38,280 (24.551%)	43,219 (30.861%)	35,503 (27.900%)
Total	93,938 (100%)	147,774 (100%)	140,045 (100%)	127,292 (100%)

# AC vs DC EV Chargers

## AC vs DC EV chargers

[▶ Table](#)[▶ Figure](#)

- AC charger: slow charging method (4 to 6 hours),  
placed in residential areas
- DC charger: fast charging method (30 to 60 minutes),  
placed in public institutions, facilities, etc.

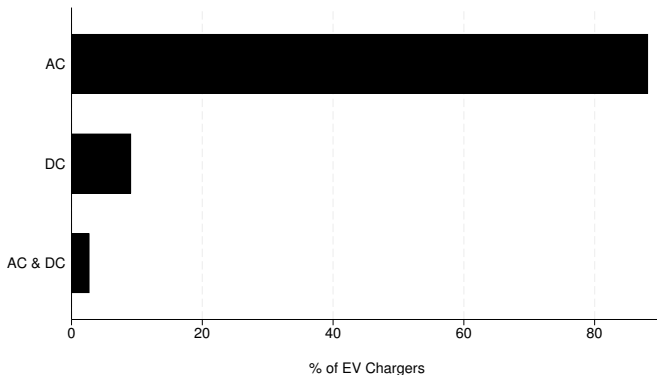
⇒ EV consumers primarily use AC chargers at home.

⇒ DC chargers may not be correlated with the EV demand.

# EV Charger Types

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## Percentage of EV Chargers by Charger Types



# AC vs DC EV Chargers

▶ Back

**Table:** Second-Stage, Separating AC and DC EV Chargers

Dependent Variable	$\Delta \ln(\text{Gasoline Price})$ (1)	$\Delta \ln(\text{Diesel Price})$ (2)	$\Delta \ln(\# \text{ gas Stations})$ (3)	$\Delta \ln(\text{Gasoline Price})$ (4)	$\Delta \ln(\text{Diesel Price})$ (5)	$\Delta \ln(\# \text{ Gas stations})$ (6)
$\Delta AC \ EVC$	-0.076*** (0.017)	-0.089*** (0.020)	0.000 (0.013)			
$\Delta DC \ EVC$				-5.654 (4.343)	-6.659 (5.046)	0.000 (0.965)
<b>First Stage Regression</b>						
<i>IV</i>	0.014*** (0.001)	0.014*** (0.001)	0.014*** (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.002 (0.002)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LZ FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
F-stat	215.07	215.07	196.90	1.65	1.65	1.47
Obs.	228	228	228	228	228	228

Notes: \* $p < 0.10$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.01$

# Adding Additional Set of Controls

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**Table:** Second-Stage, Additionally Controlling for Various Set of Controls

Dependent Variable	$\Delta \ln(\text{Gasoline Price})$			$\Delta \ln(\text{Diesel Price})$			$\Delta \ln(\# \text{ Gas Stations})$		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
$\Delta EVC$	-0.065*** (0.015)	-0.052** (0.014)	-0.072*** (0.017)	-0.079*** (0.017)	-0.066*** (0.017)	-0.086*** (0.019)	0.004 (0.015)	0.003 (0.014)	0.000 (0.012)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LZ FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Additional Set of Controls</b>									
GRDP & VA	✓			✓			✓		
Tax Revenue		✓			✓			✓	
Mileage			✓			✓			✓
F-stat	152.16	161.38	183.40	152.16	161.38	183.40	96.19	88.56	152.45
Obs.	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228

Notes: \*p < 0.10, \*\*p < 0.05, \*\*\*p < 0.01

# Price Deflation

► Back

**Table:** Second-Stage, Deflated Price Dependent Variable

Dependent Variable	$\Delta \ln(\text{Gasoline Price})$ (1)	$\Delta \ln(\text{Gasoline Price})$ (2)	$\Delta \ln(\text{Diesel Price})$ (3)	$\Delta \ln(\text{Diesel Price})$ (4)
$\Delta EVC$	-0.098*** (0.017)	-0.099*** (0.017)	-0.113*** (0.020)	-0.114*** (0.020)
Controls (Original)	✓		✓	
Controls (Deflated)		✓		✓
LZ FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
F-stat	173.11	168.52	173.11	168.52
Obs.	228	228	228	228

Notes: \* $p < 0.10$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.01$

# More Checks on the IV

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**Table:** Second-Stage, More Checks on the IV

Dependent Variable	$\Delta \ln(\text{Gasoline Price})$			$\Delta \ln(\text{Diesel Price})$			$\Delta \ln(\# \text{ Gas Stations})$		
	(1)	2009 IV (2)	2004 IV (3)	(4)	2009 IV (5)	2004 IV (6)	(7)	2009 IV (8)	2004 IV (9)
$\Delta EVC$	-0.084*** (0.023)	-0.072*** (0.016)	-0.062*** (0.019)	-0.106*** (0.025)	-0.086*** (0.019)	-0.083*** (0.021)	0.005 (0.013)	0.001 (0.012)	-0.001 (0.013)
New APT	0.001 (0.001)			0.002*** (0.001)			-0.001** (0.000)		
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LZ FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
F-stat	78.70	142.53	76.80	78.70	142.53	76.80	98.18	124.66	75.02
Obs.	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228

Notes: \* $p < 0.10$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.01$

# Urban vs Rural Heterogeneity

► Back

**Table:** Second-Stage, Urban vs Rural Heterogeneity

Dependent Variable	$\Delta \ln(\text{Gasoline Price})$		$\Delta \ln(\text{Diesel Price})$		$\Delta \ln(\# \text{ Gas Stations})$	
	Subsample (1)	Urban Control (2)	Subsample (3)	Urban Control (4)	Subsample (5)	Urban Control (6)
$\Delta EVC$	-0.074*** (0.015)	-0.077*** (0.016)	-0.090*** (0.019)	-0.088*** (0.019)	0.001 (0.012)	-0.001 (0.013)
<i>Urban</i>		-0.610** (0.306)		-0.207 (0.279)		-0.163 (0.210)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LZ FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
F-stat	107.58	182.91	107.58	182.91	124.25	179.13
Obs.	144	228	144	228	144	228

Notes: \* $p < 0.10$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.01$

# Self-Service vs General Gas Stations

▶ Back

**Table:** Second-Stage, Separating Self-Operated vs General Gas Stations

Dependent Variable	$\Delta \ln(\text{Gasoline Price})$		$\Delta \ln(\text{Diesel Price})$		$\Delta \ln(\# \text{ Gas Stations})$	
	Self (1)	General (2)	Self (3)	General (4)	Self (5)	General (6)
$\Delta EVC$	-0.055*** (0.010)	-0.053** (0.018)	-0.066*** (0.014)	-0.063*** (0.017)	0.004 (0.009)	-0.006 (0.022)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LZ FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
F-stat	167.40	170.72	167.40	170.72	159.08	159.08
Obs.	222	227	222	227	228	228

Notes: \* $p < 0.10$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.01$

Dependent Variable	$\Delta \ln(\text{Gasoline Price})$		$\Delta \ln(\text{Diesel Price})$		$\Delta \ln(\# \text{ Gas Stations})$	
	Total (1)	No Thrifty (2)	Total (3)	No Thrifty (4)	Total (5)	No Thrifty (6)
$\Delta EVC$	-0.074*** (0.017)	-0.075*** (0.018)	-0.087*** (0.019)	-0.088*** (0.020)	0.000 (0.013)	0.001 (0.014)
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LZ FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
F-stat	173.11	173.11	173.11	173.11	159.08	159.08
Obs.	228	228	228	228	228	228

# Mitigating Potential Collider Bias

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**Table:** Second-Stage, Mitigating Potential Collider Bias

Dependent Variable	$\Delta \ln(\text{Gasoline Price})$		$\Delta \ln(\text{Diesel Price})$		$\Delta \ln(\# \text{ Gas Stations})$	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
$\Delta EVC$	-0.069*** (0.015)	-0.073*** (0.016)	-0.079*** (0.020)	-0.085*** (0.018)	-0.008 (0.014)	0.000 (0.013)
Predetermined	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Contemporary Change (2011 ~ 2022)		✓		✓		✓
LZ FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
F-stat	115.46	187.36	115.46	187.36	115.46	157.20
Obs.	228	228	228	228	228	228

Notes: \* $p < 0.10$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.01$

# Korean Gas Stations and EV Chargers



Self Gas Station



General Gas Station



EVC in an Apartment