The effects of the single contract and short time work schemes in dual labor markets

J.I. García Pérez and Victoria Osuna

Universidad Pablo de Olavide





The "Great Recession" has revealed the poor performance of certain labour markets in EU: **Spain is the champion!**

- Institutional features of the Spanish labour market:
 - 1. External flexibility: a large gap in severance costs of permanent (PCs) and temporary contracts (TCs).
 - 2. Internal flexibility: hours and wages difficult to modify.
- These features imply that, during downturns, job destruction is much larger in Spain than in the rest of the EU...



- The adjustment mechanism is based on employment instead of wages...
- The temporary employment rate is 33% (14% in the EU).





The need to eliminate the duality to prevent its perverse consequences on the Spanish labour market:

- Huge employment volatility: 77% of total job losses during the current crisis were due to TCs (34% in the EU).
- Labor market segmentation is quite persistent: 40% of the workers who have a temporary job at age 20 still have one at the age of 40.
- Low productivity growth: no training, poor match quality and specialization in relatively low-productivity sectors.
- Demographics: bad implications for emancipation, birth rates, sustainability of the pension system.



Steady State: effects of more external and internal flexibility ON unemployment, job destruction and the tenure distribution.

Transition: welfare effects, the costs of the policies and distributional issues.

Policies:

- Reducing the severance costs gap of PCs and TCs.
- Introducing a single contract.
- Availability of short-time work schemes.

Standard ingredients:

- Heterogeneity (idiosyncratic shocks)
- Persistency (Markov processes)
- Frictions in the matching process
- Endogenous job destruction

New ingredients:

- Dual labor market: two types of contracts (PCs and TCs) differing in productivity, in the maximum length of the contract and in the associated severance costs.
- Endogenous job conversion of TCs into PCs.
- Severance costs modelled as a transfer from the firm to the worker, and as a function of wages and seniority.
- Downward wage rigidity (wage set by collective agreements).
- Seniority as a state variable
- Availability of short-time work.







Steady State Effects

Statistics	SQ	EPL ch.	EPL ch.	EPL ch.	EPL ch.	Base
	(45-8)	(33-11)	+ STW	+ STW	+ STW	Single
	days	days	No subs.	33% subs.	Prop. subs.	contract
u	17.3	15.4	15.6	12.4	11.8	13.7
u_{fte}	17.3	15.4	16.6	13.1	14.2	13.7
JD	12.6	11.9	11.8	9.3	8.9	11.6
JDt	26.7	22.2	22.0	12.3	8.9	16.8
JDp	7.4	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.9	8.1
$n_{d=1}$	20.4	18.1	18.1	14.2	13.4	16.6
$n_{d>3}$	52.7	57.9	58.1	61.2	63.5	60.6



Tenure Distribution





- We perform the transition from the SQ to the reform scenarios.
- We compare the resulting labor market careers under the SQ and under the transition for a sample of workers from the MCVL data set that differ in their employment status, type of contract, tenure and productivity.
- In every scenario, workers are subject to the same shocks, but their employment histories will be different because the policy rules are different.
- We compute the equivalent variation (EV) and the fiscal costs (implied by the SQ and by the reform scenarios) and express them as an income annuity.

Statistics	EPL change	EPL ch. +	EPL ch. +	Base	SC
	(33-11) days	STW 33%	STW prop.	SC	12-36
Fiscal bal. variation	291	-67	403	590	762
Equivalent variation	-105	-164	329	15	329



EPL vs SQ	All %	All	Perm. %	Perm.	Temp. %	Temp.	U %	U
↑ sev.cost	38.1%	33.2	38.6%	21.0	36.6%	47.8	38.8%	45.0
↓ sev.cost	37.3%	61.3	37.2%	51.2	37.4%	73.7	37.4%	70.0
↑ tenure	28.9%	2.0	24.3%	2.1	30.4%	2.3	38.4 %	1.7
↓ tenure	7.5%	0.1	10.2%	0.0	7.4%	0.3	0.9 %	1.8
↑ income	49.9%	413	48.2%	360	48.8%	450	55.1%	483
↓ income	28.8%	337	29.7%	249	28.7%	438	26.6%	489
STW vs SQ	All %	All	Perm. %	Perm.	Temp. %	Temp.	U %	U
↑ sev.cost	29.7%	72.9	26.7%	49.5	31.6%	98.5	34.5%	86.7
↓ sev.cost	47.1%	53.2	48.7%	43.7	47.3%	65.0	42.9%	62.8
↑ tenure	49.3%	3.0	45.6%	2.9	51.5%	2.9	55.7%	3.1
↓ tenure	7.4%	1.3	8.1%	0.6	9.9%	2.4	2.6%	1.3
↑ income	57.7%	658	56.1%	489	61.5%	932	57.0%	683
↓ income	35.3%	615	36.3%	534	31.7%	697	37.5%	717



Base SC vs SQ	All %	All	Perm. %	Perm.	Temp. %	Temp.	U %	U
↑ sev.cost	37.8%	79.9	37.8 %	62.3	36.7%	92.9	39.3%	105.8
↓ sev.cost	37.4%	56.5	37.8 %	47.0	37.2%	68.9	36.7%	64.3
↑ tenure	44.3%	3.0	38.8%	2.9	48.7%	3.3	52.0%	2.8
↓ tenure	5.4%	0.2	8.4%	0.0	3.5%	0.6	0.8%	2.0
↑ income	46.0%	499	45.9%	444	45.5%	513	46.9%	615
↓ income	39.6%	613	38.9%	562	39.5%	636	41.1%	700
SC1236 vs SQ	All %	All	Perm. %	Perm.	Temp. %	Temp.	U %	U
↑ sev.cost	30.4%	40.9	28.8%	28.5	30.1%	55.7	34.8%	4.9
↓ sev.cost	45.0%	85.9	46.6%	64.3	43.6%	98.8	42.8%	126.2
↑ tenure	53.0%	3.4	49.4%	3.2	54.8%	3.7	59.5%	3.4
↓ tenure	3.7%	0.3	5.6%	0.1	2.7%	0.9	0.5%	2.2
↑ income	33.6%	432	33.2%	393	34.8%	438	33.1%	516
↓ income	52.0%	914	51.7%	803	50.2%	944	54.8%	1134



- The sole reduction in EPL decreases both, the unemployment rate and the temporary job destruction, and smoothes the tenure distribution.
- Adding STW decrease the unemployment and the JDt substantially, and smoothes much more the tenure distribution, but only if payroll taxes are subsidized.
- The effects of the sc depends on how it is designed.
- The transition analysis shows that all the reform scenarios are Pareto improving. In those where welfare decreases, a lump sum subsidy could be used to compensate for the welfare loss.
- Policy implication: the SC seems to be the best option to reduce the duality without significantly harming the budget, while STW should be better used as a strategy to prevent a drastic increase in the unemployment rate when economies are hit by temporary negative shocks.



The Transition

Statistics	SQ	EPL change	EPL change EPL change +		EPL change +
			Short-time	Short-time	Short-time
			No subsidy	33% subsidy	Prop. subsidy
Income	17793	17898	17786	17957	17465
Average Wage	16143	16427	16188	16038	15897
Severance Cost	784	717	717	724	747
State $Cost_b$	866	754	799	627	560
State $Cost_{w-sub}$	0	0	82	567	261
State $Cost_{ss-cc}$	762	679	709	657	612
State Total Cost	1628	1434	1590	1852	1434
Firm $Cost_{ss-cc}$	3487	3577	3547	3606	3651
Firm $Cost_{ss-u}$	903	911	911	941	948
State Revenue	4390	4487	4458	4547	4599
Fiscal balance	2763	3054	2867	2695	3166
Fiscal bal. var.	-	291	105	-67	403
Equivalent var.	-	-105	7	-164	329



SS Effects of the 2012 reform

Statistics	SQ	EPL change:	EPL change +	EPL change +	EPL change +
		(45-8) days	Short-time	Short-time	Short-time
		to (33-11)	No subsidy	33% subsidy	Prop. subsidy
u	17.3	15.4	15.6	12.4	11.8
u_{fte}	17.3	15.4	16.6	13.1	14.2
JD	12.6	11.9	11.8	9.3	8.9
JDt	26.7	22.2	22.0	12.3	8.9
JDp	7.4	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.9
$JD_{d=2}$	22.5	22.5	22.4	6.5	6.6
$JD_{d=3}$	29.5	29.8	29.5	14.5	14.5
$JD_{d=4}$	30.6	10.6	10.7	17.1	5.2
$n_{d=1}$	20.4	18.1	18.1	14.2	13.4
$n_{d=2}$	15.8	14.1	14.0	13.3	12.5
$n_{d=3}$	11.2	9.9	9.9	11.4	10.7
$n_{d>3}$	52.7	57.9	58.1	61.2	63.5



Data set: "Muestra continua de vidas laborales" (MCVL): random draw from the Social Security archives.

Info on: personal characteristics and all employment and unemployment spells throughout worker's entire labour history.

Graph: Exit rates from temporary (left) and permanent (right) employment to unemployment, by employment duration



The exit from a temporary contract is much larger, at any employment duration



Status Quo:

- Legal indemnities in fair dismissals (20 days of wages p.y.o.s. with a maximum of 12 monthly wages)
- Legal indemnities in unfair dismissals (45 days of wages p.y.o.s. with a maximum of 42 monthly wages)
- Procedural wages of around two monthly wages (except when applying the Law 45/2002: 57.6% of cases)
- 14.5% of all firing processes were judged and 74.3% of them were declared unfair.
- The rest of dismissals are: 7% collective dismissals, 20.9% agreed at UM (we assume all apply 45 days).
- In the status quo $s^p = 44.1 \frac{w}{365}(d-1) + 23.2 \frac{w}{365}$ and $s^t = 8 \frac{w}{365}(d-1)$.
- In the 2012 Reform $s^p = 33 \frac{w}{365}(d-1)$ and $s^t = 11 \frac{w}{365}(d-1)$.



In TCs:

- Status Quo: $\xi^{tc}(w_{ft}^{tc}, w_{pt}^{tc}) = (\xi_{cc} + \xi_u)w_{ft}^{tc}$
- Short-time but no payroll subsidy: $\xi^{tc}(w_{ft}^{tc}, w_{pt}^{tc}) = (\xi_{cc} + \xi_u)w_{ft}^{tc}$
- Short-time and a 33% payroll subsidy: $\xi^{tc}(w_{ft}^{tc}, w_{pt}^{tc}) = (0.67 * \xi_{cc} + \xi_u) w_{ft}^{tc}$
- Short-time and a proportional payroll subsidy: $\xi^{tc}(w_{ft}^{tc}, w_{pt}^{tc}) = \xi_{cc}w_{pt}^{tc} + \xi_u w_{ft}^{tc}$ In PCs:
 - Status Quo: $\xi^{tc}(w_{ft}^{tc}, w_{pt}^{tc}) = (\xi_{cc} + \xi_u)w_{ft}^{pc}$
 - Short-time but no payroll subsidy: $\xi^{tc}(w_{ft}^{tc}, w_{pt}^{tc}) = (\xi_{cc} + \xi_u) w_{ft}^{pc}$
 - Short-time and a 33% payroll subsidy: $\xi^{tc}(w_{ft}^{tc}, w_{pt}^{tc}) = (0.67 * \xi_{cc} + \xi_u) w_{ft}^{pc}$
 - Short-time and a proportional payroll subsidy: $\xi^{tc}(w_{ft}^{tc}, w_{pt}^{tc}) = \xi_{cc}w_{pt}^{tc} + \xi_u w_{ft}^{pc}$



Discount factor	eta	0.97
Productivity shock (mean)	μ	1
Productivity shock (autocorrelation)	ho	0.75
Productivity shock (standar deviation)	σ	0.11
Productivity gap	γ	0.135
Unemployment benefit	b	0.2
Minimum wage	w_{min}	0.72
Bargaining power	π	0.33
Matching elasticity	η	0.51
Vacancy cost	c_v	0.26
Training cost	au	0.6
Experience effect on productivity	λ	0.0065
Mismatch degree	А	0.64



Statistics	Spanish Data	Status Quo
JDp	8.1	7.4
JDt	26.6	26.7
u_{dur}	11.1	12.3



Statistics of interest						
Statistics	Data	Status Quo				
u	14.6	17.3				
JD	11.5	12.6				
$n_{d=1}$	25.8	20.4				
$n_{d=2}$	15.7	15.8				
$n_{d=3}$	11.4	11.2				
$n_{d=4}$	8.6	7.7				
$n_{d=5}$	6.8	7.5				
$\bar{d}_{d\leq 6}$	1.94	1.96				
$\bar{d}_{d\leq 10}$	3.05	3.83				



Population

- Workers: employed or unemployed.
- Firms-Jobs: occupied or vacant.

State Space

 $S = \{\{0, 1\} \times \mathcal{E} \times D\},$ where

$$\mathcal{E} = \{\epsilon_1, ..., \epsilon_n\}$$
$$D = \{d_1, ..., d_N\}$$

Preferences

- Identical and linear in consumption.
- Work is offered inelastically.



Production Technology

Each firm produces one unit of product whose price is $y(\epsilon_t)$ where

- **Solution** Entry level ϵ_e

Matching Technology

- \bullet c_v : cost of posting a vacancy.
- Every job is created as a temporary job.
- $m = m(u_t, v_t)$ matching function.

Transition rates:

$$a(\nu) = \frac{m(v,u)}{u} = m\left(\frac{v}{u},1\right)$$

Job conversion at the end of the TC's maximum length.





- 1. Firm's idiosyncratic shocks are revealed.
- 2. Firms and workers renegociate wages.
- 3. Firm decides whether to continue producing or to terminate the match.
- 4. After that, production starts.
- 5. Finally, search decisions are made.



Vacancy and Job creation

Every job is created as a temporary job according to the following equation

$$J^{0} = c_{v} + \beta q(\theta) J^{tc}(\epsilon_{e}, 1) + \beta (1 - q(\theta)) J^{0}$$

On the other hand, job conversion leads to permanent job creation. Job conversion will take place for sufficiently high productivity realisations at the end of the TC's maximum length.



Problem of a firm with an existing temporary job

$$\begin{aligned} J^{tc}(\epsilon, d) &= \max\{y(\epsilon)(1-\gamma)h_{ft} - w_{ft}^{tc}(\epsilon, d) - \xi^{tc}(w_{ft}^{tc}, w_{pt}^{tc}) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon) J^{tc}(\epsilon', d'), \\ &\qquad y(\epsilon)(1-\gamma)h_{pt} - w_{pt}^{tc}(\epsilon, d) - \xi^{tc}(w_{ft}^{tc}, w_{pt}^{tc}) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon) J^{tc}(\epsilon', d'), \\ &\qquad -s^{tc}(\epsilon, d-1) - c_v + \beta(q(\theta)J^{tc}(\epsilon_e, 1) + (1-q(\theta))V)\} \end{aligned}$$

$$g^{tc}(\epsilon, d) = \begin{cases} h_{ft} & \text{if the fulltime match continues} \\ h_{pt} & \text{if the match continues at a reduced number of hours} \\ 0 & \text{if the worker is fired} \end{cases}$$



Problem of a firm with an expired TC (prospective PC)

$$\begin{split} J^{ppc}(\epsilon, d) &= \max\{y(\epsilon)(1-\tau)h_{ft} - w_{ft}^{ppc}(\epsilon, d) - \xi^{pc}(w_{ft}^{ppc}, w_{pt}^{ppc}) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon) J^{pc}(\epsilon', d'), \\ &\qquad y(\epsilon)(1-\tau)h_t - w_{pt}^{ppc}(\epsilon, d) - \xi^{pc}(w_{ft}^{ppc}, w_{pt}^{ppc}) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon) J^{pc}(\epsilon', d') \\ &\qquad -s^{tc}(\epsilon, d-1) - c_v + \beta(q(\theta) J^{tc}(\epsilon_e, 1) + (1-q(\theta))V)\} \end{split}$$

 $g^{ppc}(\epsilon, d) = \begin{cases} h_{ft} & \text{if the firm promotes the worker to a fulltime job} \\ h_{pt} & \text{if the firm promotes the worker to a partime job} \\ 0 & \text{if the worker is fired} \end{cases}$



Problem of a firm with an existing permanent job

$$J^{pc}(\epsilon, d) = max\{y(\epsilon)\Lambda(d)h_{ft} - w_{ft}^{pc}(\epsilon, d) - \xi^{pc}(w_{ft}^{pc}, w_{pt}^{pc}) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon)J^{pc}(\epsilon', d'), \\ y(\epsilon)\Lambda(d)h_{pt} - w_{pt}^{pc}(\epsilon, d) - \xi^{pc}(w_{ft}^{pc}, w_{pt}^{pc}) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon)J^{pc}(\epsilon', d'), \\ -s^{pc}(\epsilon, d-1) - c_v + \beta(q(\theta)J^{tc}(\epsilon_e, 1) + (1 - q(\theta))V)\}$$

$$g^{pc}(\epsilon, d) = \begin{cases} h_{ft} & \text{if the fulltime match continues} \\ h_{pt} & \text{if the match continues at a reduced number of hours} \\ 0 & \text{if the worker is fired} \end{cases}$$

The model: value functions

Problem of a worker in a PC and a PPC

$$\begin{split} W^{tc}(\epsilon, d) &= \tilde{\Phi}(g^{tc} = h_{ft}) [w_{ft}^{tc}(\epsilon, d) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon' | \epsilon) W^{tc}(\epsilon', d')] + \\ \tilde{\Phi}(g^{tc} = h_{pt}) [w_{pt}^{tc}(\epsilon, d)(1 + \omega) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon' | \epsilon) W^{tc}(\epsilon', d')] + \\ \tilde{\Phi}(g^{tc} = 0) [U + s^{tc}(\epsilon, d - 1)] \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} W^{ppc}(\epsilon, d) &= \tilde{\Phi}(g^{ppc} = h_{ft})[w^{ppc}_{ft}(\epsilon, d) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon) W^{pc}(\epsilon', d')] + \\ \tilde{\Phi}(g^{ppc} = h_{pt})[w^{ppc}_{pt}(\epsilon, d)(1 + \omega) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon) W^{pc}(\epsilon', d')] + \\ \tilde{\Phi}(g^{ppc} = 0)[U + s^{tc}(\epsilon, d - 1)] \end{split}$$

The model: value functions

Problem of a worker in a TC

$$\begin{split} W^{pc}(\epsilon, d) &= \tilde{\Phi}(g^{pc} = h_{ft}) [w_{ft}^{pc}(\epsilon, d) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon' | \epsilon) W^{pc}(\epsilon', d')] + \\ \tilde{\Phi}(g^{pc} = h_{pt}) [w_{pt}^{pc}(\epsilon, d) (1 + \omega) + \beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon' | \epsilon) W^{pc}(\epsilon', d')] + \\ \tilde{\Phi}(g^{pc} = 0) [U + s^{pc}(\epsilon, d - 1)] \end{split}$$

Problem of an unemployed worker

$$V^{0} = b + \beta \alpha(\theta) V^{t}(\epsilon_{e}, 1) + \beta (1 - \alpha(\theta)) V^{0}$$

Law of motion for unemployment

$$U_{t} = U_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{N_{t-1}^{pc}} (1 - g_{i}^{pc}(\epsilon, d)) + \sum_{i=1}^{N_{t-1}^{ppc}} (1 - g_{i}^{ppc}(\epsilon, d)) + \sum_{i=1}^{N_{t-1}^{tc}} (1 - g_{i}^{tc}(\epsilon, d)) - \alpha(\nu)U_{t-1}$$

June 20 2014



Bargaining surplus (e.g. in a permanent job)

$$S^{pc}(\epsilon, d) = [J^{pc}(\epsilon, d) - (J^0 - s^{pc}(\epsilon, d - 1))] + [V^{pc}(\epsilon, d) - (V^0 + s^{pc}(\epsilon, d - 1))]$$

Wages maximize:

$$[J^{pc}(\epsilon, d) - (J^0 - s^{pc}(\epsilon, d-1))]^{1-\pi} [V^{pc}(\epsilon, d) - (V^0 + s^{pc}(\epsilon, d-1))]^{\pi}$$

The first order conditions are:

$$(1 - \pi)S^{pc}(\epsilon, d) = J^{pc}(\epsilon, d) + s^{pc}(\epsilon, d - 1)$$
$$\pi S^{pc}(\epsilon, d) = V^{pc}(\epsilon, d) - (V^0 + s^{pc}(\epsilon, d - 1))$$



In equilibrium:

$$w^{pc}(\epsilon, d) = max\{w_{min} \quad , \quad \pi y(\epsilon)\Lambda(d) + (1-\pi)V^0 + s^{pc}(\epsilon, d-1) + \\ \pi\beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon)J^{pc}(\epsilon', d') - \beta(1-\pi)\sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon)V^{pc}(\epsilon', d')\}$$

$$w^{ppc}(\epsilon, d) = max\{w_{min} \quad , \quad \pi y(\epsilon)(1-\tau) + (1-\pi)V^0 + s^t(\epsilon, d-1) + \\ \pi\beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon)J^p(\epsilon', d') - \beta(1-\pi) \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon)V^p(\epsilon', d')\}$$

$$w^{tc}(\epsilon, d) = max\{w_{min} \quad , \quad \pi y(\epsilon)(1-\gamma) + (1-\pi)V^0 + s^t(\epsilon, d-1) + \\ \pi\beta \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon)J^t(\epsilon', d') - \beta(1-\pi) \sum_{\epsilon'} \Gamma(\epsilon'|\epsilon)V^t(\epsilon', d')\}$$



A recursive equilibrium is a list of value functions $J^{pc}(\epsilon, d)$, $J^{ppc}(\epsilon, d)$, $J^{tc}(\epsilon, d)$, $V^{pc}(\epsilon, d)$, $U^{pc}(\epsilon, d)$, U^{pc}

- 1. **Optimality**: Given functions $q(\theta)$, $\alpha(\theta)$, $w^{pc}(\epsilon, d)$, $w^{ppc}(\epsilon, d)$ and $w^{tc}(\epsilon, d)$ the value functions $J^{pc}(\epsilon, d)$, $J^{ppc}(\epsilon, d)$, $J^{tc}(\epsilon, d)$, $V^{pc}(\epsilon, d)$, $V^{ppc}(\epsilon, d)$ and $V^{tc}(\epsilon, d)$ satisfy the Bellman equations.
- 2. Free entry: $J^0 = 0$, implying $c_v = \beta q(\theta) J^t(\epsilon_e, 1)$.
- 3. **Wage bargaining:** Equilibrium conditions from maximising the surplusin PCs, PPCs and TCs. For instance, in PCs:

$$(1-\pi)S^{pc}(\epsilon,d) = J^{pc}(\epsilon,d) + s^{pc}(\epsilon,d-1)$$

$$\pi S^{pc}(\epsilon,d) = V^{pc}(\epsilon,d) - (V^0 + s^{pc}(\epsilon,d-1))$$

In PPCs and TCs similar conditions hold.