

# Competitive strategies of national border gasoline stations: the impact of regional policies on gasoline price

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For several years, the price difference in gasoline between Italy and the neighbouring countries has encouraged residents in border regions to refuel abroad. In response to this issue, certain Italian border regions have implemented discount policies for local residents to discourage “fuel tourism”, which is considered detrimental to both the national economy and the environment. Our objective is to assess the potential impact of these regulatory changes on retail gasoline prices. Specifically, we examine variations in discount policies across neighbouring areas, such as Area 0 vs. Area 1 and Area 2, within the same Italian region (Friuli Venezia Giulia). Using a dataset containing weekly gasoline prices for the universe of gasoline stations in Friuli Venezia Giulia from the first quarter of 2022 to the first quarter of 2023, our findings provide evidence that gasoline stations respond to discount policy changes.