**GERMAN DATA SCIENCE DAYS 2024** 

### **Economic Data Science**

Dr. Sebastian Wichert, Head of Research Data Center (EBDC) ifo Institute, Munich

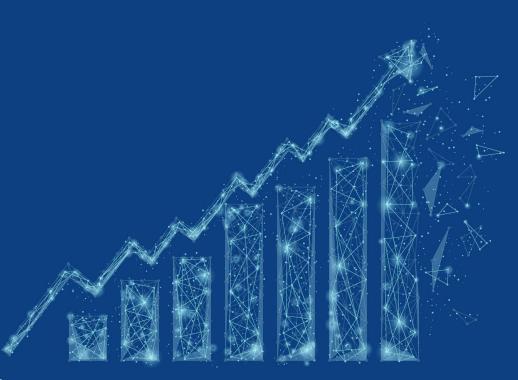


with Firm Data









### ifo is a leading economic research institute in Germany

### Our mission: Shaping the economic debate

#### **Key themes**



Economic growth and sustainability



Digital transformation of the economy



Public sector function and taxation



European integration, globalization and inter-system competition



Equality of opportunity and integration



#### **Key facts**

Leading German economic research institute on research performance, media coverage and policy impact

Non-profit organization + connection to LMU Munich

Headed by Prof. Dr. Clemens Fuest

9 research areas + research data center

approx. 220 employees



07.03.2024

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Sendung verpasst? (>)



### **Key themes**



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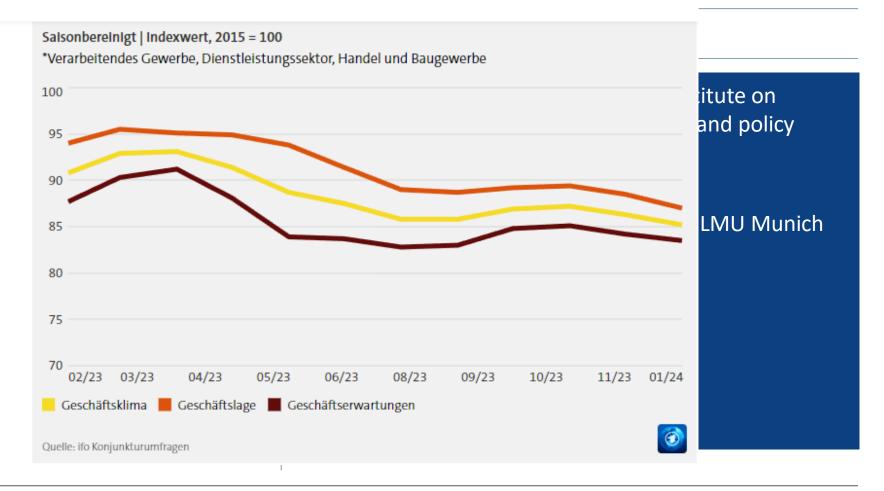
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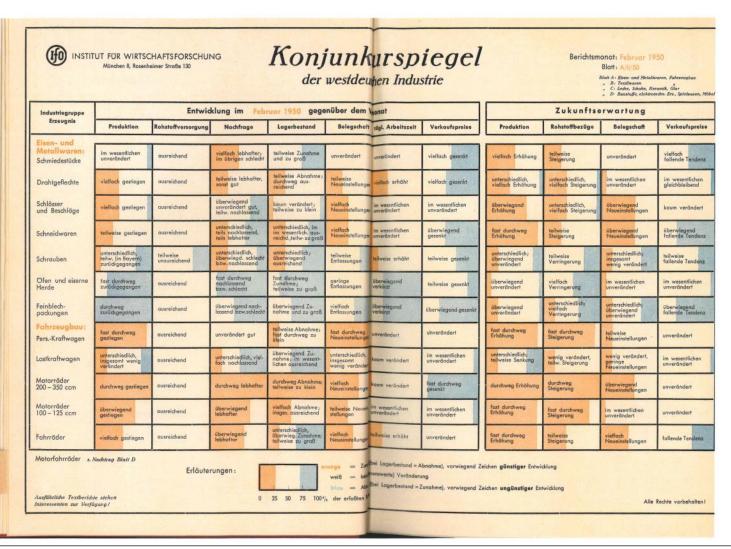
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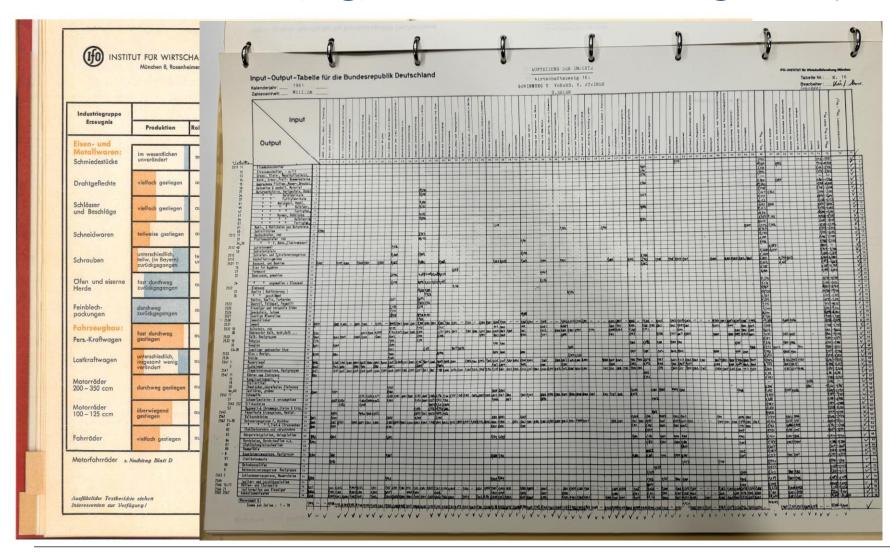


# Economics and (Big) Data Science – a long history until today





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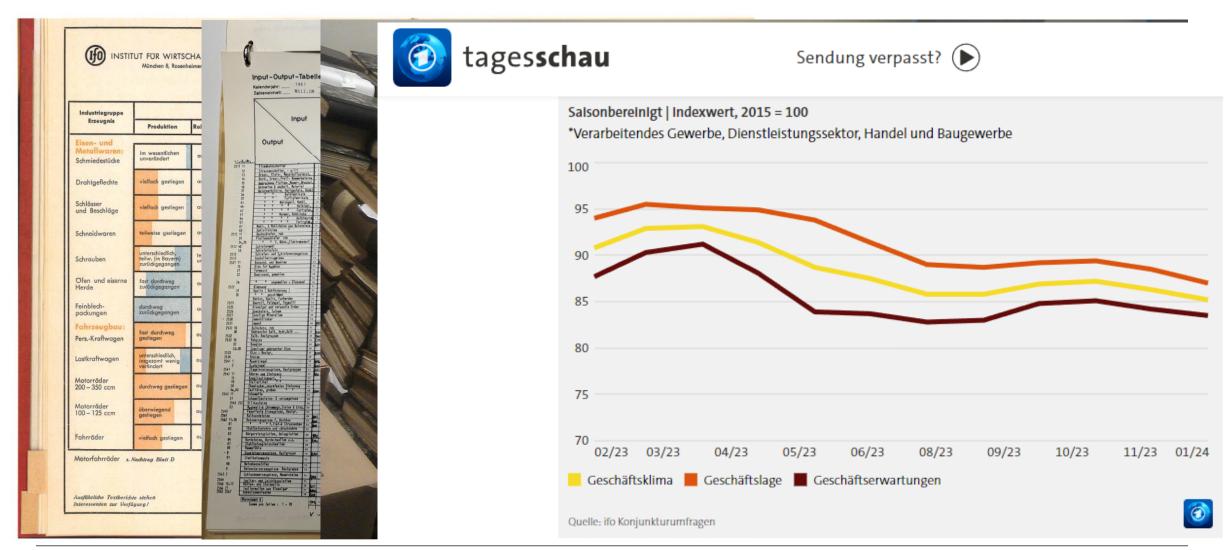


# Economics and (Big) Data Science - a long history until today





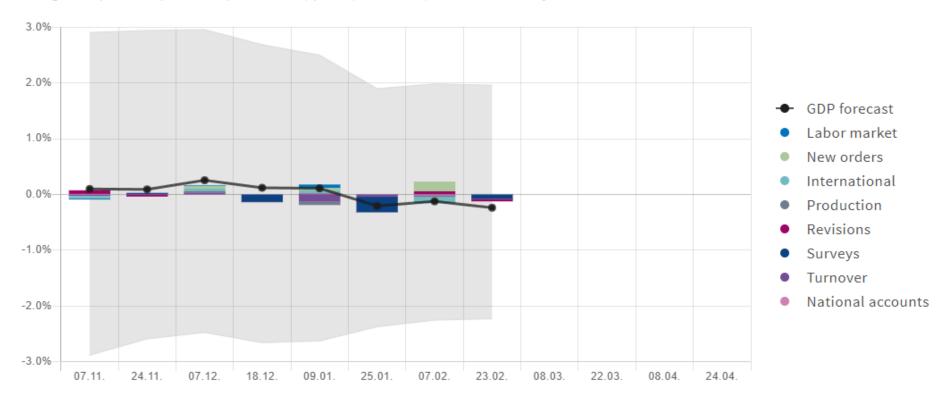
# Economics and (Big) Data Science – a long history until today





### ifoCast -ML-based Back-, Now- and Forecasting

Change compared to previous quarter in %, price-, seasonal-, and calendar-adjusted



Forecast uncertainty: 90% interval based on forecast distribution. Source: ifoCAST; calculations by the ifo Institute, as of: 23.02.2024 © ifo Institute



### A Novel Trade Agreement Database

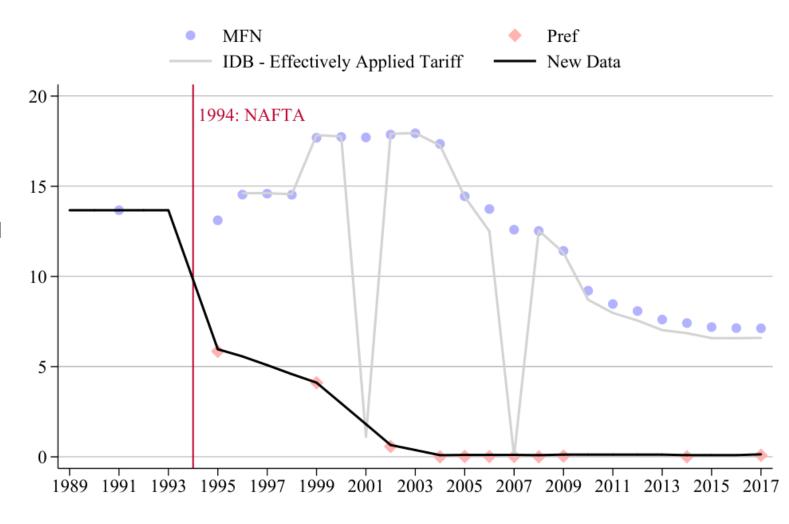
**Starting point:** Existing official trade data is massively flawed

Tariff data is granular and complex:

- 160 x 159 x 5,000 x 30 = 5.6 bn observations
- Tariff, trade, sanction documents = Legal docs with mix of tables, text in different languages

**Methods:** Web-scraping, NLP methods (structural topic models, text similarity), K-clustering, LASSO, causal inference

**Result:** Trade elasticities are highly sensitive to messy data





# Measuring collaboration and the (still existing) role of distance using GitHub

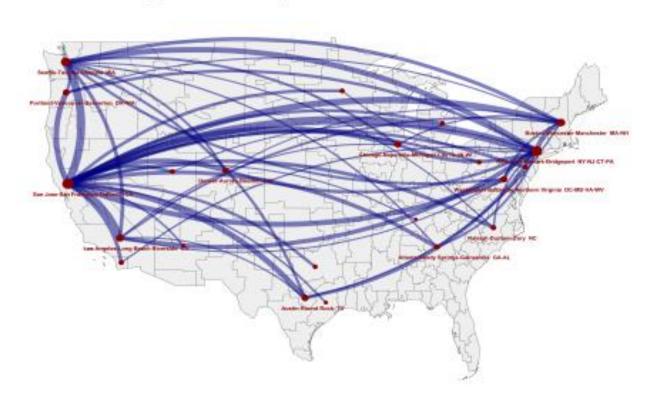
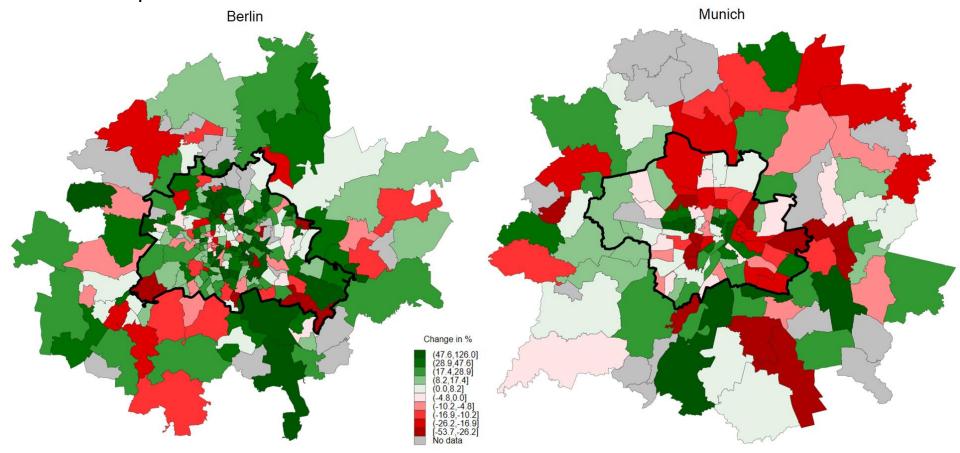


Figure 3: Inter-regional collaboration of users

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# New economic geography and consumption expenditures in cities

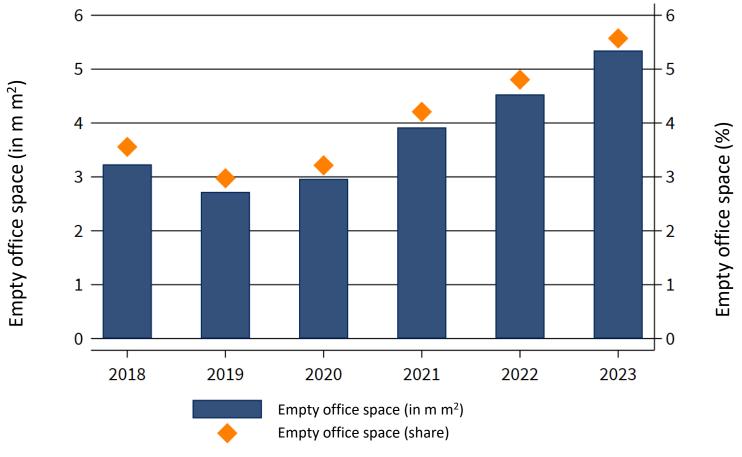
Change in credit card expenditures 2019 vs. 2022



Source: Mastercard GeoInsights; Calculations by ifo Institute.



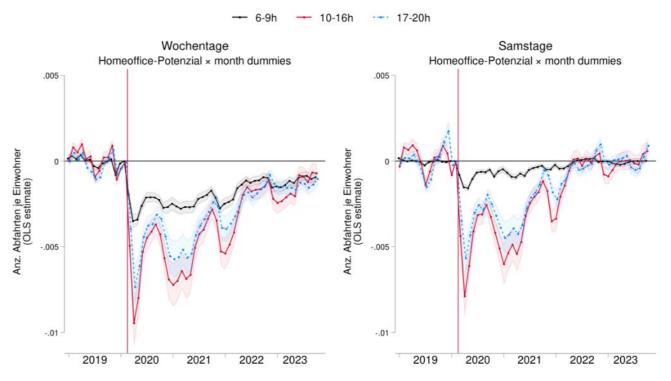
### Working from home and the market for office space in Germany



Source: Colliers; Calculations by ifo Institute.



### Less mobility in areas with more working from home potential



**Source**: Mobile phone-based mobility data from Deutsche Telekom and working from home potential by infas360. Calcuations by ifo Institute. #depatures per month on postcode level.



### Several more studies

The deterrent effects of arrests in domestic violence cases (using UK police and emergency call data)

Measuring the effects of climate protests on elections (using i.a. mobility/location data)

The effects of different forms of custody (using Swedish court records)

**HR studies using employee data** (of course in a GDPR compliant way):

- Fostering psychological safety in teams using field experiments benefits and measures
- Explaining talent hoarding in firms (and how to avoid it) using team evaluations and survey evidence
- Addressing female underrepresentation in leadership positions using internal job board data

....

### Economic Research together with Firms – a Great Opportunity

#### **Initial situation**

- Official statistics not sufficient: Many (time-critical) questions cannot be answered with official statistics or surveys → Data is not available at all, too late, or not detailed roughly
- Big Data: Digitization creates "big data" (= huge, unconventional, often unstructured data) in business processes at companies
- Long-standing expertise: Economic researchers (@ifo and beyond) are proficient in data analysis and the application of stateof-the-art econometric methods
- + connections to other sciences



- Creating a win-win situation:
   Cooperation projects that bring together company data and economic, methodological expertise lead to mutual benefits for companies and science
- Cooperation in new areas: Pilot projects and long-standing in new fields apart from engineering, direct product development, and marketing is possible - even in (privacy-sensitive) Germany.

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### Cooperation between Science and Industry – Why and How?

### Possible goals & requirements for science:

- Evidence-based scientific research that feeds into policy advice and public debate
- Connection to the world's leading research
- Utilizing synergy effects of the business and science location

### Possible goals of business partners:

- Generate new insights to optimize business processes
- Knowledge transfer
- Recruitment data scientists
- CSR/ESG ("Data for good")/Avoiding stronger regulations
- Good PR through joint studies and press

#### **Process:**

- Joint development of research questions and, if necessary, regular coordination rounds
- Open-ended and independent research
- Cooperation always on a contractual basis, confidentiality agreement and data protection check +
  if necessary, anonymization and data processing only in a secure working environment



### Initiatives to foster collaboration between science and industry











# **DATAGROUP BUSINESS** 2 SCIENCE

Take your chance and collaborate with science!



JOIN OUR TEAM! Applied Data Scientist/ PostDoc (f/m/d)
Big Data Economics



Shaping the Economic Debate



# **THANK YOU!**



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#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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ifo website: <a href="https://www.ifo.de/en">https://www.ifo.de/en</a>



### References I

#### ifo/LMU researchers in bold

- Slide 3 ifo Business Climate Index: <a href="https://www.ifo.de/en/survey/ifo-business-climate-index-germany">https://www.ifo.de/en/survey/ifo-business-climate-index-germany</a>
- Slide 5 ifoCast: <a href="https://www.ifo.de/en/ifoCAST">https://www.ifo.de/en/ifoCAST</a>
- Slide 6 Tariff data **Feodora Teti**, 30 Years of Trade Policy: Evidence from 5.7 Billion Tariffs, mimeo
- Slide 7 GitHub data: Moritz Goldbeck, <u>Bit by Bit Colocation and the Death of Distance in Software Developer</u>
   <u>Networks</u>
- Slide 8 Mastercard GeoInsights + Infas360 data: Victor Alipour, Oliver Falck, Simon Krause, Carla Krolage, Sebastian Wichert, The Future of Work and Consumption in Cities after the Pandemic: Evidence from Germany
- Slide 9 Colliers office-real estate data: Simon Krause, Andreas Trumpp, Tobias Dichtl, Susanne Kiese, Alexander Rutsch, Neue Arbeitswelt, neue Arbeitsorte: Auswirkungen von Homeoffice auf den Büroimmobilienmarkt
- Slide 10 Telekom mobility data: Unpublished analysis for project "The Future of Work and Consumption in Cities after the Pandemic: Evidence from Germany " (see slide 8)

### References II

#### ifo/LMU researchers in bold

- Slide 11:
  - Sofia Amaral, Gordon B. Dahl, Victoria Endl-Geyer, Timo Hener, Helmut Rainer, <u>Deterrence or Backlash? Arrests and the Dynamics of Domestic Violence</u>
  - Marc Fabel, Matthias Flückiger, Markus Ludwig, Helmut Rainer, Maria Waldinger, Sebastian Wichert, The Power of Youth:
     Did the "Fridays for Future" Climate Movement Trickle-Up to Influence Voters, Politicians, and the Media?
  - Stella Canessa, Anna Hasselqvist, Helmut Rainer, Joint versus Sole Custody after Divorce: Causal Effects on Child Outcomes and Family Environment
  - Silvia Castro, Florian Englmaier, Maria Guadalupe, Fostering Psychological Safety in Teams: Evidence from an RCT, mimeo
  - Ingrid Hägele, Talent Hoarding in Organizations
  - Ingrid Hägele, The Broken Rung: Gender and the Leadership Gap
- Slide 14:
  - CESifo Cluster "Economic Research with Firm Data"
  - Predictive People Analytics (PPA)
  - KonsortSWD project "New Options for Access to Firm Data"
  - BERD@NFDI Data Marketplace
  - NFDI Section "Industry Engagement"
  - Datagroup Business 2 Science

