Quantitative analyses in merger control Finland

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Kilpailu- ja kuluttajavirasto

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Overview of methods used in 2017

- Event studies
 - Scandic/Restel (hotels)
 - SOK/Stockmann Herkku (groceries)

UPP

- SOK/Stockmann Herkku (groceries)
- Yamaha/Konekesko (Motorboats)

Bidding analysis

- Terveystalo/Diacor (Occupational healthcare)
- Lemminkäinen/YIT (Construction of buildings and infrastructure)





Previous examples of using quantitative methods

- UPP
 - SATS/Elixia 2013/2014 (gym)
- Price-concentration-analysis
 - Kesko/Lähikauppa 2015/2016 (groceries)
- Event-studies
 - Kesko/Lähikauppa 2015/2016 (groceries)





Event studies and closeness of competition

- We try to use actual market data on customer choice when possible
 - "Event studies" allow for a quasi-experimental research design
- Entry and exit in the grocery retail market
 - Kesko/Lähikauppa (2015/2016), S-group/Stockmann (2017)
 - Previous examples: FTC vs. Whole Foods, Competition Comissions retail market enquiry
- Hotel renovations in Scandic/Restel





Closeness of competition: renovations as "natural" experiments

Hotels are renovated from time to time

During the renovations part of the hotel is closed and it loses customers
Where do these customers go?

- Method: Difference-in-differences
 - > Treatment-group: Hotels in local markets experiencing renovation
 - Control-group: Hotels that belong to the same chain as the treatment hotel and are located similar local markets where there are no renovations



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DIFFERENCES IN DIFFERENCES method





