

Mueller, Holger M.; Ouimet, Paige P.; Simintzi, Elena

**Working Paper**

## Wage inequality and firm growth

LIS Working Paper Series, No. 632

**Provided in Cooperation with:**

Luxembourg Income Study (LIS)

*Suggested Citation:* Mueller, Holger M.; Ouimet, Paige P.; Simintzi, Elena (2015) : Wage inequality and firm growth, LIS Working Paper Series, No. 632, Luxembourg Income Study (LIS), Luxembourg

This Version is available at:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10419/119732>

**Standard-Nutzungsbedingungen:**

Die Dokumente auf EconStor dürfen zu eigenen wissenschaftlichen Zwecken und zum Privatgebrauch gespeichert und kopiert werden.

Sie dürfen die Dokumente nicht für öffentliche oder kommerzielle Zwecke vervielfältigen, öffentlich ausstellen, öffentlich zugänglich machen, vertreiben oder anderweitig nutzen.

Sofern die Verfasser die Dokumente unter Open-Content-Lizenzen (insbesondere CC-Lizenzen) zur Verfügung gestellt haben sollten, gelten abweichend von diesen Nutzungsbedingungen die in der dort genannten Lizenz gewährten Nutzungsrechte.

**Terms of use:**

*Documents in EconStor may be saved and copied for your personal and scholarly purposes.*

*You are not to copy documents for public or commercial purposes, to exhibit the documents publicly, to make them publicly available on the internet, or to distribute or otherwise use the documents in public.*

*If the documents have been made available under an Open Content Licence (especially Creative Commons Licences), you may exercise further usage rights as specified in the indicated licence.*

# **LIS**

## **Working Paper Series**

No. 632

### **Wage Inequality and Firm Growth**

Holger M. Mueller, Paige P. Ouimet, and Elena Simintzi

March 2015



CROSS-NATIONAL  
DATA CENTER  
*in Luxembourg*

---

**Luxembourg Income Study (LIS), asbl**

---

# Wage Inequality and Firm Growth<sup>\*</sup>

Holger M. Mueller<sup>†</sup>    Paige P. Ouimet<sup>‡</sup>    Elena Simintzi<sup>§</sup>

February 2015

## Abstract

We examine how *within-firm* skill premia—wage differentials associated with jobs involving different skill requirements—vary both across firms and over time. Our firm-level results mirror patterns found in aggregate wage trends, except that we find them with regard to increases in firm size. In particular, we find that wage differentials between high- and either medium- or low-skill jobs increase with firm size, while those between medium- and low-skill jobs are either invariant to firm size or, if anything, slightly decreasing. We find the same pattern within firms over time, suggesting that rising wage inequality—even nuanced patterns, such as divergent trends in upper- and lower-tail inequality—may be related to firm growth. We explore two possible channels: i) wages associated with “routine” job tasks are relatively lower in larger firms due to a higher degree of automation in these firms, and ii) larger firms pay relatively lower entry-level managerial wages in return for providing better career opportunities. Lastly, we document a strong and positive relation between within-country variation in firm growth and rising wage inequality for a broad set of developed countries. In fact, our results suggest that part of what may be perceived as a global trend toward more wage inequality may be driven by an increase in employment by the largest firms in the economy.

---

<sup>\*</sup>We thank Xavier Giroud, Claudia Goldin, and Johannes Stroebe for valuable comments and Raymond Story at Income Data Services (IDS) for help with the data.

<sup>†</sup>NYU Stern School of Business, NBER, CEPR, and ECGI. Email: hmueller@stern.nyu.edu.

<sup>‡</sup>Kenan-Flagler Business School, UNC Chapel Hill. Email: paige\_ouimet@kenan-flagler.unc.edu.

<sup>§</sup>Sauder School of Business, University of British Columbia. Email: elena.simintzi@sauder.ubc.ca.

# 1 Introduction

A simple model of skill premia based on shifts in skill supply in conjunction with a steady increase in skill demand, goes a long way toward explaining the rise in wage inequality over the past decades.<sup>1</sup> Much less is known about how skill premia—wage differentials associated with jobs involving different skill requirements—are determined inside the firm. For instance, within a given firm, how much does a high-skill job, such as Human Resources Director, pay relative to a lower-skill job, such as Human Resources/Personnel Assistant? And does this wage differential vary across firms and over time? Understanding the determinants of skill premia is important, as it might help us better understand their variation and thus shed additional light on the causes of rising wage inequality.<sup>2</sup>

A challenge in analyzing skill premia lies in their measurement. Conventional skill measures, such as education or experience, are adequate if there is a one-to-one mapping between workers' skills and job tasks. In practice, however, workers with the same skill endowment (e.g., college education) may perform a variety of different job tasks, all with different skill requirements. Conversely, a given job task may be performed by workers with vastly different skill endowments. Drawing on this distinction between workers' skills and job tasks, Acemoglu and Autor (2011) argue that a richer, “task-based” framework in which skills are endogenously assigned to job tasks is needed to understand recent labor market developments, including the role of technological change and offshoring for employment and wages.

An alternative approach involves using occupations to measure skill premia. What is appealing about occupations is that they are conceptually closer to job tasks. And yet, issues similar to those discussed above also arise here. That is, workers within a given occupation may perform a variety of different job tasks, all with different skill requirements. Conversely, jobs with similar skill requirements may be performed by workers with

---

<sup>1</sup>See Katz and Murphy (1992), Autor, Katz, and Krueger (1998), Card and Lemieux (2001), Acemoglu (2002), Goldin and Katz (2007), Autor, Katz, and Kearney (2008), and Acemoglu and Autor (2011). The model is attributed to Tinbergen's (1975) pioneering work on the race between education (skill supply) and technology (skill demand).

<sup>2</sup>In a similar vein, Autor (2014, p. 843) speaks of the “centrality of the rising skill premium to the overall growth of earnings inequality.”

vastly different occupational backgrounds. Indeed, we find both statements to be true in our data, that is, there is no simple one-to-one mapping between occupations and skill requirements.

This paper uses a proprietary data set of UK firms in which wages are observed at the job title-firm-year level. Important for our purposes, job titles are grouped into broader “job level” categories—groups of jobs with similar skill requirements. Thus, our data allow us to observe how much a given firm pays for jobs with particular skill requirements in a given year. For example, job level 1, our lowest skill category, includes work that “requires basic literacy and numeracy skills and the ability to perform a few straightforward and short-term tasks to instructions under immediate supervision.” Typical job titles are cleaner, labourer, and unskilled worker. The second lowest skill category, job level 2, includes work that “requires specific administrative, practical, craft or technical skills gained by previous experience and qualifications to carry out a range of less routine work and to provide specialist support, and could include closer contact with the public/customers.” Typical job titles are administrative assistant, driver, and operator. And job level 3, the third lowest skill category, includes work that “requires broad and deep administrative, technical or craft skills and experience to carry out a wider range of activities including staff supervision, undertaking specialist routines and procedures and providing some advice.” Typical job titles are technician, craftsman, and skilled worker. Altogether, there are nine distinct job levels representing different levels of a firm’s (skill) hierarchy. Not surprisingly, wages are increasing with job levels, suggesting that firms pay more for jobs with higher skill requirements.

Our main results examine how within-firm skill premia—wage differentials associated with jobs involving different skill requirements—vary both across firms and over time. We compute skill premia as ratios of wages associated with different job levels, and thus different skill requirements, within a given firm and year. Thus, a firm-year observation of, say, “wage ratio 12” is the wage associated with job level 2 divided by the wage associated with job level 1 within the same firm and year.

Popular measures of (overall) wage inequality, such as the 90/10 log wage differential, compare wages from the top and bottom of the aggregate wage distribution. In our case,

wage ratios such as 18, 28, 19, or 29 also compare top and bottom earners. However, this comparison is made *within* firms, meaning it is unaffected by firm composition effects. Perhaps more important, our wage ratios can be directly interpreted as skill premia, as they are constructed from different skill categories.

When examining “top-bottom” (e.g., 18, 28, 19, or 29) wage ratios, we find that they all increase with firm size. This is true regardless of whether we measure firm size by the number of employees (our base specification) or firms’ sales. It is also true if we focus exclusively on within-industry variation. The effect is economically large. For example, moving from the 25th to the 75th percentile of the firm-size distribution raises the wage associated with job level 9 by 280.1% relative to the wage associated with job level 1. Observe that this effect is different from the well-documented employer size-wage effect (e.g., Brown and Medoff (1989), Oi and Idson (1999)). The latter shows that wages are increasing with firm size. By contrast, our results show that wage *differentials*—in fact, within-firm skill premia—are increasing with firm size.

As several studies have noted, the rise in wage inequality—both in the UK and the US—has not been uniform. While overall (e.g., 90/10) and “upper-tail” (e.g., 90/50) inequality have risen steadily, “lower-tail” (e.g., 50/10) inequality has remained flat or, if anything, contracted slightly.<sup>3</sup> We find the exact same pattern in our data, except that we find it with regard to increases in firm size. We already mentioned that “top-bottom” wage ratios increase with firm size. Likewise, we also find that “top-middle” (e.g., 48, 49, 58, or 59) wage ratios increase with firm size. In contrast, “middle-bottom” (e.g., 14, 15, 24, 25) wage ratios do *not* increase with firm size. They either remain flat or, if anything, decrease slightly. Overall, our results suggest that rising wage inequality—even nuanced patterns, such as divergent trends in upper- and lower-tail inequality—may be related to firm growth.

To explore what is driving these results, we revisit the employer size-wage effect. That is, we analyze wage *levels* instead of wage ratios. We find that wages in high-skill job categories (job levels 6 to 9) all increase with firm size. Moreover, the rate of increase

---

<sup>3</sup>In the US, upper- and lower-tail wage inequality begin to diverge in the late 1980s. In the UK, they begin to diverge a decade later. See Section 5.1 for a discussion.

is greater for higher skill categories. In contrast, wages in low- and medium-skill job categories (job levels 1 to 5) do *not* increase with firm size; they are either invariant to firm size or, if anything, slightly decreasing. This suggests two things. First, while the employer size-wage effect also “holds” in our data—wages increase with firm size on average—it is entirely driven by the upper tail of the skill distribution. Second, and more important, the invariance of middle-bottom wage ratios to firm size is not driven by wages in medium- and low-skill job categories both increasing at a similar rate. Rather, wages in both skill categories are individually invariant to firm size.

Why do wages in high-skill job categories increase with firm size but not wages in low- and medium-skill job categories? One possible explanation is that there exist countervailing mechanisms putting downward pressure on wages in low- and medium-skill job categories at larger firms, offsetting the general tendency of wages to increase with firm size. We focus on two such mechanisms. The first, building on seminal work by Autor, Levy, and Murnane (2003), posits that wages associated with “routine” job tasks are relatively lower in larger firms due to a higher degree of automation in these firms. Consistent with this hypothesis, we find that wages associated with routine jobs decline relative to those associated with non-routine jobs as firms become larger, especially in medium-skill job categories. The second mechanism posits that larger firms pay relatively lower entry-level managerial wages in return for providing better career opportunities. Consistent with this hypothesis, we find that managerial wages in low- to medium-skill job categories are relatively lower in larger firms, while those in high-skill job categories are relatively higher in larger firms.

We next examine how within-firm skill premia vary over time. In line with our previous results, we find that within-firm wage differentials between high- and either medium- or low-skill job categories rise as firms grow larger, while those between medium- and low-skill job categories remain unaffected.

Finally, we explore whether wage inequality and firm growth are related at the country level. In this regard, the question is: growth of *what* firms? As we argue in the paper, when thinking about the relation between wage inequality and firm growth, one should not be thinking about the median firm in the economy. The median firm in the US had 0-4

employees in 1992 and still has 0-4 employees today. Rather, the relation between wage inequality and firm growth is likely driven by larger firms. To this end, we focus on the 50 or 100 largest firms per country using a broad sample of developed countries that includes the UK and US, among others. We find evidence of strong firm growth among larger firms in practically all of these countries. Most important, we find that within-country variation in firm growth is positively and significantly related to rising wage inequality, even after accounting for common time trends. In fact, our results suggest that part of what may be perceived as a global trend toward more wage inequality may be driven by an increase in employment by the largest firms in the economy.<sup>4</sup>

Our country-level results complement those of Barro (2000, 2008), who studies the role of income inequality for GDP growth. For high-GDP countries, which comprise the developed countries in our sample, he finds a positive effect of income inequality on GDP growth. By contrast, our focus is on the effect of (firm) growth on income inequality. In equilibrium, both effects may reinforce each other, solidifying the relationship between inequality and growth found in Barro’s and our study.<sup>5</sup>

Altogether, our results suggest that firm growth, especially of larger firms, may contribute to rising wage inequality in two ways. First, it may act as a *catalyst* for already existing explanations that, as such, are not necessarily linked to firm growth. For instance, explanations for the divergent trends in upper- and lower-tail wage inequality based on the automation of routine job tasks (e.g., Autor, Katz, and Kearney (2006), Acemoglu and Autor (2011)) do not require firm growth. However, if larger firms are more likely to automate routine job tasks, then firm growth may act as a catalyst for task-replacing technological change. Second, firm growth may contribute to rising wage inequality through channels that are inherently linked to firm size. For instance, if larger firms exhibit wider spreads between top- and entry-level wages, then firm growth may directly contribute to rising wage inequality through this channel.

---

<sup>4</sup>For a broader (historical, global) perspective on the rise in income (and wealth) inequality, see, e.g., Piketty and Saez (2003, 2014), Atkinson, Piketty, and Saez (2011), Alvaredo et al. (2013), and Saez and Zucman (2014).

<sup>5</sup>Table 1 in Atkinson and Brandolini (2001) categorizes over thirty macroeconomic studies of income inequality based on whether inequality is the dependent or independent variable.



Several papers have pointed to rising between-establishment wage dispersion as a source of rising overall wage inequality (e.g., Barth, Bryson, Davis, and Freeman (2014), Card, Heining, and Kline (2013), Dunne et al. (2004), Davis and Haltiwanger (1991), Groshen (1991)). While our study shares with this literature the focus on employers, we do not decompose aggregate wage dispersion into between- and within-establishment components. Rather, we start from *inside* the firm by comparing wages associated with jobs involving different skill requirements within a given firm and year. In a second step, we then explore how these within-firm skill premia vary both across firms—along the size dimension—and within firms over time. In that sense, our paper is more related to the literature studying the employer size-wage effect, except that we study how wage *differentials* vary with firm size. Importantly, our wage differentials can be directly interpreted as skill premia, as they are constructed from wages associated with different skill categories within a firm.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents the data and summary statistics. Section 3 examines how within-firm skill premia and wages per skill category vary with firm size. Section 4 considers the role of automation of routine job tasks and managerial career opportunities for skill premia. Section 5 explores within-firm changes in skill premia and examines the relation between wage inequality and firm growth for a broad set of developed countries. Section 6 concludes.

## 2 Data and Summary Statistics

### 2.1 Pay-Level Data

We have comprehensive firm-level data on employee pay for a broad cross-section of UK firms for the years 2004 to 2013. The data are provided by Income Data Services (IDS), an independent research and publishing company specializing in the field of employment. IDS was established in 1966 and acquired by Thomson Reuters (Professional) UK Limited in 2005. It is the leading organization carrying out detailed monitoring of firm-level pay trends in the UK, providing its data to various public entities, such as the UK Office for

National Statistics (ONS) and the European Union.

IDS gathers information on employee pay associated with various job titles within a firm. Firms are typically sampled multiple times. Sampled job titles may differ across firms. Important for our purposes, employers are asked to group job titles into broader “job level” categories based on the skills required for the job. Thus, job levels are categories of jobs with similar skill requirements. By implication, given job titles may be assigned to different job levels if they involve jobs with different skill requirements. This is especially relevant across different employers, where given job titles may have different meanings. IDS provides ten job levels in total, which can be broadly viewed as representing different levels of a firm’s hierarchy. To increase the sample size in some of our regressions, we combine the lowest two job levels into a single job level, implying that we have nine job levels altogether.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 1** provides descriptions of all nine job levels along with examples of typical job titles. For instance, job level 1, our lowest skill category, includes work that “requires basic literacy and numeracy skills and the ability to perform a few straightforward and short-term tasks to instructions under immediate supervision.” Typical job titles are cleaner, labourer, and unskilled worker. The second lowest skill category, job level 2, includes work that “requires specific administrative, practical, craft or technical skills gained by previous experience and qualifications to carry out a range of less routine work and to provide specialist support, and could include closer contact with the public/customers.” Typical job titles are administrative assistant, driver, and operator. And job level 3, the third lowest skill category, includes work that “requires broad and deep administrative, technical or craft skills and experience to carry out a wider range of activities including staff supervision, undertaking specialist routines and procedures and providing some advice.” Typical job titles are technician, craftsman, and skilled worker.

---

<sup>6</sup>The results with the original ten job levels are provided in Appendix Table A1. As can be seen, except for the small sample size in some regressions involving the original job levels 1 and 2, all results are qualitatively similar.

## 2.2 Firm Size

To obtain measures of firm size, we match the IDS firm names to Bureau van Dijk’s Amadeus database. Amadeus provides financial information about public and private firms in the UK and other European countries. That Amadeus includes private firms is especially important for us, because 40% of the firms in our sample are private. All matches have been checked by IDS employees who are familiar with the sample firms. Our matching success rate is 90%, providing us with a sample of 880 firms.

Our main measure of firm size is the number of employees. However, our results are similar if we use firms’ sales (see Appendix Table A2). As is typical of samples that include private and public firms, the firm-size distribution is heavily right-skewed due to the presence of some very large, public firms. To avoid that outliers drive our results, we winsorize firm size at the 5% level. Our results are similar if we winsorize firm size at the 1% level (see Appendix Table A3).<sup>7</sup>

The average firm in our sample is 32 years old, has 10,014 employees, book assets of 1,890 million GBP, and sales of 1,610 million GBP. There is considerable variation in firm size. For example, moving from the 25th percentile (381 employees) to the median (1,705 employees) of the firm-size distribution involves an increase in firm size of 348%, and moving from the median to the 75th percentile (6,345 employees) involves a further increase of 272%. Firms are also widely dispersed across industries. The five largest industry categories in our sample are manufacturing (SIC 20-39, 29.8% of firms), services (SIC 70-89, 23.1% of firms), transportation, communication, electric, gas, and sanitary services (SIC 40-49, 16.6% of firms), finance, insurance, and real estate (SIC 60-67, 14.9% of firms), and wholesale and retail trade (SIC 50-59, 12.2% of firms). None of our results are driven by industry composition effects. Indeed, all our results hold if we focus exclusively on within-industry variation (see Appendix Table A4).

---

<sup>7</sup>The non-winsorized firm-size distribution has a median of 1,705 employees, mean of 12,606 employees, maximum of 508,714 employees, and skewness of 7.19. With 1% winsorizing, the distribution remains heavily right-skewed: mean of 11,844 employees, maximum of 273,024 employees, and skewness of 5.21. The 5% winsorized distribution has a mean of 10,014 employees, maximum of 97,300 employees, and skewness of 3.03.

## 2.3 Descriptive Statistics

**Table 2** shows the distribution of wages for each job level, or skill category, based on all firm-year observations. Wages are deflated using the consumer price index (CPI) provided by the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) and winsorized at the 1% level. As can be seen, wages are increasing with job levels, suggesting that firms pay more for jobs with higher skill requirements. For instance, the average wage in job level 1, our lowest skill category, is 13,778 GBP, the average wage in job level 5 is 29,352 GBP, and the average wage in job level 9, our highest skill category, is 110,693 GBP. Moving up one level raises the average wage per job level by 29.8% on average, albeit the magnitude of this differential varies. In particular, at lower job levels (1 to 3), moving up one level involves a smaller increase (16.3% to 20.8%) than does moving up at medium or higher job levels (4 to 8)(28.7% to 60.5%). Thus, wages are increasing with job levels, but the rate of increase is larger at medium and higher levels.

Our main focus is on skill premia—within-firm wage differentials associated with different job levels. Specifically, we compute for all  $(9 \times 8)/2 = 36$  job-level pairs the corresponding ratio of wages within a given firm and year. Thus, a firm-year observation implies that we observe wages for both job levels in that particular firm and year. For ease of comparison, we always divide wages associated with higher job levels by wages associated with lower job levels, e.g., “wage ratio 12” means that we divide the wage associated with job level 2 by the wage associated with job level 1.

**Table 3** shows the distribution of skill premia for all 36 job-level pairs. For instance, an average wage ratio of 8.286 associated with job-level pair 19 implies that the wage associated with job level 9 is on average 8.286 times the wage associated with job level 1 when both wages are observed in the same firm and year. This is similar to the ratio of average wages from Table 2, where the average wage across all firms and years associated with job level 9 is  $110,693/13,778 = 8.034$  times the average wage associated with job level 1.

As one might expect, average wage ratios are increasing with the distance between job levels. For instance, wage ratio 12 is lower than wage ratio 13, which is lower than wage

ratio 14. Likewise, wage ratio 34 is lower than wage ratio 24, which is lower than wage ratio 14. Finally, holding the distance between job levels fixed, average wage ratios are higher when both job levels increase. For instance, wage ratio 13 is lower than wage ratio 24, which is lower than wage ratio 35.

Table 3 also shows the percentage of firm-year observations for which a given wage ratio exceeds one. This percentage is always close or equal to 100%, suggesting that higher skill requirements are reflected in higher pay within a given firm and year. Indeed, only 2.2% of firm-year observations have wage ratios of less than one. Dropping these observations does not affect our results.<sup>8</sup>

When collecting wage data, IDS may not sample all job levels within a given firm in the same year. In particular, low (1,2,3) and high (8,9) job levels are often sampled in different years, with the implication that job-level pairs involving both levels, such as 19, 29, or 39, may have relatively fewer observations. This raises two potential issues: i) lack of statistical power, and ii) insufficient variation. As we will see below, neither is a serious concern. In fact, to the extent that we obtain insignificant results, this is always in conjunction with regressions that have sufficiently many observations.

## 3 Skill Premia and Firm Size

### 3.1 Main Results

**Table 4** contains our main results. For each job-level pair, we regress the corresponding wage ratio, or skill premium, on firm size (both in logs). That is, we run 36 separate regressions. As it turns out, there is a clear pattern in the data.

Panel A includes all job-level pairs in which job level 1 is compared to higher job levels. Moving from left to right, the distance between job levels (i.e., the wage ratio) increases. As can be seen, the coefficient on firm size is initially insignificant (wage ratios 12, 13, 14, and 15). Beginning with wage ratio 16, the coefficient is positive and significant

---

<sup>8</sup>That some firm-year observations have wage ratios of less than one suggests that skill requirements are an important, but not the only, determinant of employee pay.

(wage ratios 16, 17, 18, and 19). Moreover, when the coefficient is significant, it is also monotonically increasing in the wage ratio. For example, a one percent increase in firm size implies that the wage associated with job level 6 increases by 0.0375% relative to the wage associated with job level 1. By contrast, for the same increase in firm size, the wage associated with job level 7 increases by 0.0883%, the wage associated with job level 8 increases by 0.162%, and the wage associated with job level 9 increases by 0.179%—all relative to the wage associated with job level 1. Thus, a one percent increase in firm size has a roughly five times bigger effect on wage ratio 19 than on wage ratio 16.

Panels B to D include all job-level pairs in which job levels 2, 3, or 4 are compared to higher job levels. The pattern is similar to Panel A. Precisely, the coefficient on firm size is initially insignificant (or, in one case (wage ratio 23), negative and significant) and then always positive and significant. Moreover, when the coefficient is significant, it is also monotonically increasing in the wage ratio.<sup>9</sup> Finally, Panels E to H include all job-level pairs in which job levels 5, 6, 7, or 8 are compared to higher job levels. The pattern is again similar, except that there is no initial region in which the coefficient on firm size is insignificant. That is, the coefficient on firm size is always positive and significant, and it is always monotonically increasing in the wage ratio.

In sum, even though we run 36 separate regressions, there is a clear pattern in the data. When low job levels (1 to 5) are compared to one another, an increase in firm size has no effect on within-firm skill premia. In contrast, when high job levels (6 to 9) are compared to either one another or low job levels, an increase in firm size widens the wage gap between higher and lower skill categories. This effect is stronger the greater is the distance between skill categories. For instance, moving from the 25th to the 75th percentile of the firm-size distribution—an increase in firm size of 1,565%—raises the wage associated with job level 9 by 280.1% relative to the wage associated with job level 1. By contrast, for the same increase in firm size, the wage associated with job level 6 increases only by 59.7% relative to the wage associated with job level 1.

Our results are not driven by industry composition effects. In fact, as we show in

---

<sup>9</sup>There is one minor exception: in Panel D, the coefficient on firm size decreases slightly between wage ratios 48 and 49 (from 1.05 to 1.02).

Appendix Table A4, all our results hold if we focus exclusively on within-industry variation. If anything, the only noteworthy difference is that in two cases (wage ratios 24 and 25) the coefficient on firm size is negative and significant while it was previously negative and insignificant. As is shown in Appendix Table A2, our results are also similar if we measure firm size using firms’ sales in lieu of the number of employees. Sales are measured in logs and deflated using the consumer price index (CPI) provided by the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS). Again, the only noteworthy difference is that in two cases (wage ratios 24 and 25) the coefficient on firm size is negative and significant while it was previously negative and insignificant. Finally, our results are also not driven by our choice of combining the lowest two IDS job levels into a single job level (see Appendix Table A1) or winsorizing (see Appendix Table A3).

As we already mentioned in the Introduction, there is a strong resemblance between our results and patterns found in aggregate wage data. Specifically, both in the UK and the US, there has been a “polarization” of wage trends: while overall (e.g., 90/10) and “upper-tail” (e.g., 90/50) wage inequality have risen steadily, “lower-tail” (e.g., 50/10) wage inequality has remained flat or, if anything, contracted slightly (see Section 5.1). We find the exact same pattern in our data, except that we find it with regard to increases in firm size. That is, “top-bottom” (e.g., 18, 28, 19, or 29) and “top-middle” (e.g., 48, 49, 58, or 59) wage ratios both increase with firm size, while “middle-bottom” (e.g., 14, 15, 24, 25) wage ratios remain flat or, in some cases, decrease slightly. Overall, this suggests that rising wage inequality—even nuanced patterns, such as divergent trends in upper- and lower-tail inequality—may be related to firm growth. We explore this hypothesis in more detail below.

### 3.2 The Employer Size-Wage Effect Revisited

The invariance of middle-bottom wage ratios with regard to firm size raises questions. Are wages in medium- and low-skill job categories both invariant to firm size? Or do they merely increase (or decrease) at a similar rate? To address these questions, we next revisit the employer size-wage effect. That is, we analyze wage *levels* (in logs) instead of

wage ratios.

**Table 5** presents the results. The first column, which combines all job levels, includes job-level fixed effects. Thus, the comparison is between small and large firms within a given job level, or skill category. As can be seen, the employer size-wage effect also holds in our data. Across all job levels, a one percent increase in firm size implies an average wage increase of 0.0126%. This magnitude is similar to the company size-wage effect in Brown and Medoff (1989, Table 1, 1b), who report a wage-firm size elasticity of 0.013% using May CPS wage data. However, not all wages increase with firm size. Indeed, as the remaining columns show, wages in low- and medium-skill job categories (job levels 1 to 5) do *not* increase with firm size—they are either invariant to firm size or, if anything, slightly decreasing. In contrast, wages in high-skill job categories (job levels 6 to 9) increase with firm size. For these wages, the rate of increase is larger for higher job levels, which explains why “top-top” wage ratios, such as 78, 79, or 89, all increase with firm size.

Altogether, our results suggest two things. First, while the employer size-wage effect also holds in our data—wages increase with firm size on average—it is entirely driven by the upper tail of the skill distribution. Second, and more important, the invariance of middle-bottom wage ratios to firm size is not driven by wages in medium- and low-skill job categories both increasing (or decreasing) at the same rate. Rather, wages in both skill categories are individually invariant to firm size.

## 4 Routine and Managerial Job Tasks

Why do wages in high-skill job categories increase with firm size but not wages in low- and medium-skill job categories? One possible explanation is that there exist countervailing mechanisms putting downward pressure on wages in low- and medium-skill job categories at larger firms, offsetting the general tendency of wages to increase with firm size.<sup>10</sup> Below we focus on two such mechanisms. The first posits that wages associated with “routine”

---

<sup>10</sup>For arguments why wages may increase with firm size, including empirical tests, see, e.g., Brown and Medoff (1989), Oi and Idson (1999), and Troske (1999).



job tasks are relatively lower in larger firms due to a higher degree of automation in these firms. The second mechanism posits that larger firms pay relatively lower entry-level managerial wages in return for providing better career opportunities.

## 4.1 Routine versus Non-Routine Jobs

In a seminal paper, Autor, Levy, and Murnane (2003, ALM) posit that computer capital substitutes for human skills in carrying out a limited and well-defined set of cognitive and manual activities that can be accomplished by following explicit rules and procedures (“routine tasks”). Such activities are readily automated, because they can be codified in computer software and thus performed by machines. On the other hand, computer capital complements “abstract” creative, problem-solving, and coordination activities (“non-routine tasks”). Drawing on this distinction between routine and non-routine tasks, ALM argue that computerization lowers the wages associated with routine tasks relative to those associated with non-routine tasks.

In a similar vein, Acemoglu and Autor (2011, p. 1138) note that “the set of tasks most subject to machine displacement in the current era are those that are routine or codifiable. Such tasks are primarily, though not exclusively, performed by medium skill (semi-skilled) workers.” The authors argue that, under plausible assumptions, the automation of routine job tasks raises the wages of high-skill workers relative to those of medium- and low-skill workers. Importantly, however, the wages of medium-skill workers *decline* relative to those of low-skill workers.<sup>11</sup>

Automation, whether in manufacturing or services, involves substantial fixed costs. Hence, for CNC machine tools, CAD/CAM systems, robots, or logistics support tools to pay their way, a firm’s scale of operations must be sufficiently large. In view of the above discussion, we may therefore hypothesize that wages associated with routine job tasks are relatively lower in larger firms, especially for medium-skill workers.<sup>12</sup> To investigate this

---

<sup>11</sup>Empirical support for the ALM routinization hypothesis is provided by Autor, Katz, and Kearney (2006, 2008), Goos and Manning (2007), Autor and Dorn (2013), Firpo, Fortin, and Lemieux (2013), Michaels, Natraj, and Van Reenen (2014), and Goos, Manning, and Salomons (2014).

<sup>12</sup>The idea is that larger firms can better amortize the fixed costs associated with technology adoption. If human skills and new technologies are complements, this implies that larger firms should pay relatively

hypothesis, we divide job titles into two groups, routine and non-routine, based on their SOC codes and the classification in ALM.<sup>13</sup>

Specifically, we classify a job title as routine if the ALM routine task intensity measure is above the sample median and the ALM non-routine task intensity measure is below the sample median. Conversely, we classify a job title as non-routine if the ALM routine task intensity measure is below the sample median and the ALM non-routine task intensity measure is above the sample median. Job titles for which this assignment is ambiguous—i.e., both task intensity measures are either above or below the sample median—are dropped from the analysis.

Panel A of **Table 6** shows the distribution of routine and non-routine jobs for each job level, or skill category. The last column reports their ratio. As can be seen, this ratio follows a hump-shaped pattern, similar to what Autor and Dorn (2013, Figure 4) find. Specifically, it peaks at job level 2, the second lowest skill category, and declines (almost) monotonically thereafter. Indeed, routine jobs are virtually non-existent among higher job levels (7 to 9), which is why these job levels are excluded from our subsequent regression analysis.

Panel B examines whether wages associated with routine and non-routine jobs vary differently with firm size. All regressions include job-level fixed effects. Thus, the comparison is between routine and non-routine jobs within a given job level, or skill category. Column (1) shows the average effect across all job levels. As can be seen, on average, wages associated with routine jobs decline relative to those associated with non-routine jobs as firm size increases. Column (2) shows that this result is largely driven by jobs in medium-skill categories. Precisely, while the coefficient on the interaction term between firm size and routine jobs is negative for all skill categories, it is strongest—both in mag-

---

higher wages (e.g., Hamermesh (1993), Dunne and Schmitz (1995)). By contrast, in the case of routine job tasks, the presumption is that computer-controlled machinery may *substitute* for human skills, implying relatively *lower* wages at larger firms.

<sup>13</sup>The UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provide crosswalks between UK SOC codes, ISCO codes, and US SOC codes. Note that SOC codes do not provide the same information as job levels, or skill categories. For example, UK SOC code 3562, defined as “Human Resources and Industrial Relations Officers,” comprises job titles from various skill categories, including Assistant HR/Personnel Officer, HR Junior Manager, Recruitment Officer, Senior Learning and Development Officer, and Recruitment Manager.

nitude and statistical significance—for job levels 4 and 5. Thus, we may conclude that wages associated with routine jobs are relatively lower in larger firms, especially for jobs in medium-skill categories.

## 4.2 Managerial versus Non-Managerial Jobs

Larger firms provide more opportunities for promotion and career advancement, higher managerial pay at the top (Rosen (1982)), and larger managerial internal labor markets. We may therefore hypothesize that—in return for providing better career opportunities—larger firms pay relatively lower entry-level managerial wages.<sup>14</sup> To investigate this hypothesis, we divide job titles into two groups, managerial and non-managerial, based on their SOC codes and the NS-SEC classification provided by the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS).<sup>15</sup>

Panel A of **Table 7** displays the distribution of managerial and non-managerial jobs for each job level, or skill category. The last column shows their ratio. As can be seen, this ratio is lowest in job level 1 and increases (almost) monotonically thereafter. Indeed, managerial jobs are virtually non-existent in job levels 1 and 2, while non-managerial jobs are non-existent in job level 9. For these reasons, we exclude these job levels from our subsequent regression analysis.

Panel B examines whether wages associated with managerial and non-managerial jobs vary differently with firm size. All regressions include job-level fixed effects. Thus, the comparison is between managerial and non-managerial jobs within a given job level, or skill category. Column (1) shows the average effect across all job levels. As can be

---

<sup>14</sup>Tournament models (e.g., Lazear and Rosen (1981)) make similar predictions. In these models, managerial incentives are provided through wage differentials (“prizes”) between lower- and higher-level managerial jobs. Larger firms have more contestants and thus require greater wage differentials—i.e., lower entry-level managerial wages and higher top-level managerial wages (McLaughlin (1988)). Similarly, deferred compensation models (e.g., Lazear (1981)) predict that larger firms pay lower entry-level managerial wages as these firms can more credibly promise to make future wage payments due to their lower bankruptcy risk.

<sup>15</sup>The NS-SEC is an occupation-based classification scheme that is meant to identify the socio-economic position of an employee, with explicit reference to managerial and supervisory occupations. See <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/soc2010/soc2010-volume-3-ns-sec-rebased-on-soc2010-user-manual/index.html#15>.

seen, managerial and non-managerial wages do not vary differently with firm size *on average*. Column (2), which offers a breakdown by skill category, shows that this is due to two opposing effects that cancel each other out. Precisely, while the coefficient on the interaction term between firm size and managerial jobs is negative for low- to medium-skill categories (job levels 3 to 5), it is positive for higher-skill categories (job levels 6 to 8). Thus, larger firms pay relatively lower entry-level managerial wages but relatively higher top-level managerial wages.

## 5 Wage Inequality and Firm Growth

### 5.1 Within-Firm Changes in Skill Premia

In this final part of our firm-level analysis, we explore how skill premia vary within firms over time. As mentioned previously, IDS samples firms multiple times. The average sampling rate is 3.6 times, and the median is 3 times. Therefore, we may focus exclusively on within-firm variation. **Table 8** presents the results. To facilitate comparison with trends in aggregate wage data, we group skill premia into three categories: top-bottom wage ratios (18, 28, 19, or 29; “overall wage inequality”), top-middle wage ratios (48, 49, 58, or 59; “upper-tail wage inequality”), and middle-bottom wage ratios (14, 15, 24, 25, “lower-tail wage inequality”). All regressions include firm, year, and job-level pair fixed effects. As can be seen, firm growth has a positive effect on top-bottom and top-middle wage ratios but no significant effect on middle-bottom wage ratios. Thus, as firms grow larger during the sample period, *within-firm* wage differentials between high- and either medium- or low-skill jobs increase, while those between medium- and low-skill jobs remain largely unaffected.

Changes in within-firm wage differentials do not necessarily imply changes in aggregate wage differentials. Whether they do depends fundamentally on which firms are driving aggregate wage trends, an issue we revisit below. For now, let us merely say that our results appear to line up well with aggregate wage trends in the UK during the sample period. As Figure 1 shows, upper- and lower-tail wage inequality move in tandem until

the late 1990s, when they begin to diverge. Precisely, while upper-tail wage inequality continues to rise, lower-tail wage inequality remains relatively flat.<sup>16</sup> The US has witnessed a similar polarization of wages, except that it begins a decade earlier (Figure 2).<sup>17</sup> Our results suggest that both patterns, for the UK and the US, may be related to firm growth. The question, however, is: growth of *what* firms?

## 5.2 Growth of *What* Firms?

In the US, as in most countries around the world, the median firm is extremely small. According to the 2011 U.S. Census Bureau’s Statistics of U.S. Businesses, the median firm among all (payroll) firms has 0-4 employees. In fact, 62.1% of all firms have 0-4 employees. At the same time, firms with 0-4 employees account for only 5.2% of all employment. On the other hand, firms with 500+ employees, while constituting only 0.3% of all firms, account for 51.5% of all employment. Most of this employment comes from the very largest of firms: those with 10,000+ employees, while constituting only 0.016% of all firms, account for 27.8% of all employment.

The above statistics suggest that, when thinking about the relation between wage inequality and firm growth, one should *not* be thinking about the median firm. The median firm in the US had 0-4 employees in 1992 and still has 0-4 employees today. Indeed, the theoretical arguments discussed in Section 4 appear particularly suited for larger firms. Moreover, the average firm in our sample of UK firms has 10,014 employees. Thus, our results have little to say about small firms with only a few employees.

Among larger firms, there has been substantial growth. Between 1980 and 2011, the average firm size (in market values) among the largest 500 firms in the US has grown by 425% (Gabaix, Landier, and Sauvagnat (2014)). Perhaps more informative for our purposes are changes in employment. According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Statistics of U.S. Businesses, firms with 500+ employees account for 45.5% of all employment in 1988. By 2011, this number has risen to 51.5%, an increase of 13.2% in 23 years. Thus,

---

<sup>16</sup>Figure 1 is from Machin (2010, Figure 11.2). See also Machin and van Reenen (2007).

<sup>17</sup>Figure 2 is from Goldin and Katz (2007, Figure 3). See also Autor, Katz, and Kearney (2006, 2008) and Lemieux (2006, 2008).

the median employee in the US today works for a firm with 500+ employees.

A similar picture emerges when looking at the average employment (instead of the employment share) of large firms. As is shown in Table 9, between 1986 and 2010, average employment by the 50 (100) largest firms in the US has risen by 55.8% (53.0%). The numbers are similar for the UK, where average employment by the 50 (100) largest firms has risen by 51.3% (43.5%). More generally, the table shows that over the past decades, average employment by large firms has risen for a broad set of developed countries. As we show next, for these countries, firm growth is positively related to rising wage inequality—even after accounting for common time trends.

### 5.3 Wage Inequality and Firm Growth in Developed Countries

Besides the UK and the US, few other developed countries exhibit wage polarization (Naticchioni, Ragusa, and Massari (2014)). This is somewhat puzzling, as most of these countries exhibit *employment* polarization, which is essentially the “quantity counterpart” to wage polarization.<sup>18</sup> Naturally, we would not expect our “more granular” results, especially those distinguishing between upper- and lower-tail wage inequality, to hold in countries where wage polarization does not exist in the first place. However, on a less granular level, our firm-level results suggest a relation between firm growth and *overall* wage inequality, where the latter has risen in many, if not most, developed countries (e.g., Machin and van Reenen (2007, Table 2), Machin (2010, Table 11.2), OECD (2011, Table A1.1)). Thus, we may examine whether firm growth and overall wage inequality are related at the country level.

Our wage data are from LIS, formerly known as The Luxembourg Income Study. LIS is a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting and distributing data for research purposes and advertises as having the largest collection of harmonized micro data for a broad set of countries and years. LIS data are particularly well suited for our purposes,

---

<sup>18</sup>Empirical evidence of employment polarization is provided by Goos and Manning (2007, UK), Autor, Katz, and Kearney (2006, 2008, US), Michaels, Natraj, and Van Reenen (2014, 11 developed countries), and Goos, Manning, and Salomons (2009, 2014, 16 European countries).

as they use official data collected from individual countries' statistical offices.<sup>19</sup> The data include labor income for a broad cross-section of employees in a given country and year. We limit our sample to full-time employees by excluding employees identified as part-time and those that report working less than 35 hours per week. Using the sample of all full-time employees in a given country and year, we estimate the 10th and 90th percentiles of the respective wage distribution. Our measure of overall wage inequality is the log 90/10 wage differential. LIS data are not available for every year and, for most countries, there is a gap of several years between surveys. On average, we have wage distribution data for six different years for the countries in our sample.

We source firm size data from Thomson Reuters Worldscope. Worldscope provides data on firm fundamentals for publicly listed firms in a broad set of countries. As discussed in Section 5.2, the relationship between wage inequality and firm growth is likely driven by larger firms. Accordingly, we calculate the average number of employees for either the 50 or 100 largest firms in a given country and year. (If there are fewer than 100 firms with available employment data in a given country and year, that country-year observation is dropped from the top 100 sample.) As is shown in Appendix Table A5, all results are similar if we use the median number of employees of the 50 (100) largest firms in lieu of the average number of employees.

Our final sample consists of all countries for which we have both wage data and firm-size data: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States. The earliest year in our sample is 1981, and the latest year is 2010. **Table 9** shows for each country the first and last year in the sample, number of country-year observations, and change in average employment among the 50 (100) largest firms in the country between the first and last sample year. As can be seen, firm growth is pervasive during the sample period. With the exception of Denmark, the change in average employment among the top 50 (100) firms is positive in all countries. Also, as mentioned before, large firms have

---

<sup>19</sup>LIS data have been previously used in cross-country studies of wage inequality by Gottschalk and Smeeding (1997) and Acemoglu (2003), among others. To further verify that LIS data are suitable for our purposes, we have recreated Figures 1 (UK) and 2 (US) and obtained similar results.

similar growth rates in the UK and the US.

**Table 10** examines the relation between wage inequality, expressed through the log 90/10 wage differential, and the average number of employees (in logs) of the 50 (100) largest firms in a given country and year. The regressions in columns (1) and (4) include both country and year fixed effects. Those in columns (2)-(3) and (5)-(6) include country fixed effects but no year fixed effects. Instead, they include a linear time trend defined as the given year minus 1999. Two results stand out. First, and importantly, there is a positive and significant relation between rising wage inequality and employment growth by the largest firms in the economy. Second, adding firm size to the regression reduces the magnitude of the coefficient on the time trend by 36.1% and 39.8%, respectively. Thus, part of what may be perceived as a global trend toward more wage inequality may be actually coming from an increase in employment by the largest firms in the economy.

## 6 Conclusion

We examine how *within-firm* skill premia—wage differentials associated with jobs involving different skill requirements—vary both across firms and over time. Our results mirror patterns found in aggregate wage trends, except that we find them with regard to increases in firm size. In particular, we find that wage differentials between high- and either medium- or low-skill jobs increase with firm size, while those between medium- and low-skill jobs are largely invariant to firm size. We find the same pattern within firms over time, suggesting that rising wage inequality—even nuanced patterns, such as divergent trends in upper- and lower-tail inequality—may be related to firm growth. To explore this hypothesis more generally, we consider a broad set of developed countries focusing on the 50 or 100 largest firms per country. We find evidence of strong firm growth among large firms in practically all of these countries. More importantly, we find that within-country variation in firm growth is positively and significantly related to rising wage inequality, even after accounting for common time trends.

Altogether, our results suggest that firm growth, especially of large firms, may contribute to rising wage inequality in two ways. First, it may act as a *catalyst* for already



existing explanations that, as such, are not necessarily linked to firm growth. For instance, explanations for the divergent trends in upper- and lower-tail wage inequality based on the automation of routine job tasks (e.g., Autor, Katz, and Kearney (2006), Acemoglu and Autor (2011)) do not require firm growth. However, if larger firms are more likely to automate routine job tasks, then firm growth may act as a catalyst for task-replacing technological change (Section 4.1). Second, firm growth may contribute to rising wage inequality through channels that are inherently linked to firm size. For instance, if larger firms exhibit wider spreads between top- and entry-level wages, then firm growth may directly contribute to rising wage inequality through this channel (Section 4.2). Clearly, these are only two of several possible mechanisms through which firm growth may affect wage inequality. Exploring these and other mechanisms in more detail constitutes a fruitful area for future research.

## 7 References

- Acemoglu, Daron, 2002, Technical Change, Inequality, and the Labor Market, *Journal of Economic Literature* 40, 7-72.
- Acemoglu, Daron, 2003, Cross-Country Inequality Trends, *Economic Journal* 113, F121-F149.
- Acemoglu, Daron, and David Autor, 2011, Skills, Tasks and Technologies: Implications for Employment and Earnings, in: *Handbook of Labor Economics*, Volume 4, Orley Ashenfelter and David Card (eds.), 1043-1171, Amsterdam: North-Holland.
- Alvaredo, Facundo, Anthony Atkinson, Thomas Piketty, and Emmanuel Saez, 2013, The Top 1 Percent in International and Historical Perspective, *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27, 3-20.
- Atkinson, Anthony, and Andrea Brandolini, 2001, Promise and Pitfalls in the Use of “Secondary” Data-Sets: Income Inequality in OECD Countries as a Case Study, *Journal of Economic Literature* 39, 771-799.

- Atkinson, Anthony, Thomas Piketty, and Emmanuel Saez, 2011, Top Incomes in the Long Run of History, *Journal of Economic Literature* 49, 3-71.
- Autor, David, 2014, Skills, Education, and the Rise of Earnings Inequality Among the “Other 99 Percent,” *Science* 344, 843-851.
- Autor, David, and David Dorn, 2013, The Growth of Low-Skill Service Jobs and the Polarization of the US Labor Market, *American Economic Review* 103, 1553-1597.
- Autor, David, Lawrence Katz, and Melissa Kearney, 2006, The Polarization of the U.S. Labor Market, *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings* 96, 189-194.
- Autor, David, Lawrence Katz, and Melissa Kearney, 2008, Trends in U.S. Wage Inequality: Revising the Revisionists, *Review of Economics and Statistics* 90, 300-323.
- Autor, David, Lawrence Katz, and Alan Krueger, 1998, Computing Inequality: Have Computers Changed the Labor Market? *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 113, 1169-1213.
- Autor, David, Frank Levy, and Richard Murnane, 2003, The Skill Content of Recent Technological Change: An Empirical Exploration, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 118, 1279-1333.
- Barro, Robert, 2000, Inequality and Growth in a Panel of Countries, *Journal of Economic Growth* 5, 5-32.
- Barro, Robert, 2008, Inequality and Growth Revisited, Asian Development Bank Working Paper Series on Regional Economic Integration 11.
- Barth, Erling, Alex Bryson, James Davis, and Richard Freeman, 2014, It’s Where You Work: Increases in Earnings Dispersion across Establishments and Individuals in the U.S., NBER Working Paper 20447.
- Brown, Charles, and James Medoff, 1989, The Employer Size-Wage Effect, *Journal of Political Economy* 97, 1027-1059.

- Card, David, Jörg Heining, and Patrick Kline, 2013, Workplace Heterogeneity and the Rise of West German Wage Inequality, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128, 967-1015.
- Card, David, and Thomas Lemieux, 2001, Can Falling Supply Explain the Rising Return to College for Younger Men? A Cohort-Based Analysis, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 116, 705-746.
- Davis, Steve, and John Haltiwanger, 1991, Wage Dispersion between and within U.S. Manufacturing Plants, 1963-86, *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 115-180.
- Dunne, Timothy, Lucia Foster, John Haltiwanger, and Kenneth Troske, 2004, Wage and Productivity Dispersion in U.S. Manufacturing: The Role of Computer Investment, *Journal of Labor Economics* 22, 397-430.
- Dunne, Timothy, and James Schmitz, Jr., 1995, Wages, Employment Structure and Employer Size-Wage Premia: Their Relationship to Advanced-Technology Usage at US Manufacturing Establishments, *Economica* 62, 89-107.
- Firpo, Sergio, Nicole Fortin, and Thomas Lemieux, 2013, Occupational Tasks and Changes in the Wage Structure, mimeo, University of British Columbia.
- Gabaix, Xavier, Augustin Landier, and Julien Sauvagnat, 2014, CEO Pay and Firm Size: An Update After the Crisis, *Economic Journal* 124, F40-F59.
- Goldin, Claudia, and Lawrence Katz, 2007, Long-Run Changes in the Wage Structure: Narrowing, Widening, Polarizing, *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 135-165.
- Goos, Maarten, and Alan Manning, 2007, Lousy and Lovely Jobs: the Rising Polarization of Work in Britain, *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 89, 118-133.
- Goos, Maarten, Alan Manning, and Anna Salomons, 2009, Job Polarization in Europe, *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings* 99, 58-63.

- Goos, Maarten, Alan Manning, and Anna Salomons, 2014, Explaining Job Polarization: Routine-Biased Technological Change and Offshoring, *American Economic Review* 104, 2509-2526.
- Gottschalk, Peter, and Timothy Smeeding, 1997, Cross-National Comparisons of Earnings and Income Inequality, *Journal of Economic Literature* 35, 633-687.
- Groshen, Erica, 1991, Sources of Intra-Industry Wage Dispersion: How Much Do Employers Matter? *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 106, 869-884.
- Hamermesh, Daniel, 1993, *Labor Demand*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Katz, Lawrence, and Kevin Murphy, 1992, Changes in Relative Wages, 1963-1987: Supply and Demand Factors, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 107, 35-78.
- Lazear, Edward, 1981, Agency, Earnings Profiles, Productivity, and Hours Restrictions, *American Economic Review* 71, 606-620.
- Lazear, Edward, and Sherwin Rosen, 1981, Rank-Order Tournaments as Optimum Labor Contracts, *Journal of Political Economy* 89, 841-864.
- Lemieux, Thomas, 2006, Increasing Residual Wage Inequality: Composition Effects, Noisy Data, or Rising Demand for Skill? *American Economic Review* 96, 461-498.
- Lemieux, Thomas, 2008, The Changing Nature of Wage Inequality, *Journal of Population Economics* 21, 21-48.
- Luxembourg Income Study Database (LIS), [www.lisdatacenter.org](http://www.lisdatacenter.org) (multiple countries; {2014}). Luxembourg: LIS.
- Machin, Stephen, 2010, Changes in UK Wage Inequality Over the Last Forty Years, in: *The Labour Market in Winter: The State of Working Britain*, Paul Gregg and Jonathan Wadsworth (eds.), 155-169, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Machin, Stephen, and John Van Reenen, 2007, Changes in Wage Inequality, Special Paper No.18, Centre for Economic Performance, LSE.

- McLaughlin, Kenneth, 1988, Aspects of Tournament Models: A Survey, in: Research in Labor Economics, Volume 9, Ronald Ehrenberg (ed.), 225-256, Greenwich, CT: JAI.
- Michaels, Guy, Ashwini Natraj, and John Van Reenen, 2014, Has ICT Polarized Skill Demand? Evidence from Eleven Countries over 25 years, The Review of Economics and Statistics 96, 60-77.
- Naticchioni, Paolo, Giuseppe Ragusa, and Riccardo Massari, 2014, Unconditional and Conditional Wage Polarization in Europe, IZA DP No. 8465.
- Oi, Walter, and Todd Idson, 1999, Firm Size and Wages, in: Handbook of Labor Economics, Volume 3, Orley Ashenfelter and David Card (eds.), 2165-2214, Amsterdam: North-Holland.
- OECD, 2011, Divided We Stand: Why Inequality Keeps Rising, OECD Publishing.
- Piketty, Thomas, and Emmanuel Saez, 2003, Income Inequality in the United States, 1913-1998, Quarterly Journal of Economics 118, 1-39.
- Piketty, Thomas, and Emmanuel Saez, 2014, Inequality in the Long Run, Science 344, 838-843.
- Rosen, Sherwin, 1982, Authority, Control and the Distribution of Earnings, Bell Journal of Economics 13, 311-323.
- Saez, Emmanuel, and Gabriel Zucman, 2014, Wealth Inequality in the United States since 1913: Evidence from Capitalized Income Tax Data, NBER Working Paper 20625.
- Tinbergen, Jan, 1975, Income Differences: Recent Research, Amsterdam: North Holland.
- Troske, Kenneth, 1999, Evidence on the Employer-Size Wage Premium from Worker-Establishment Matched Data, Review of Economics and Statistics 81, 15-26.

**Table 1**  
**Job Levels / Skill Categories**

<b>Job Level</b>	<b>Examples of Job Titles</b>	<b>IDS Description</b>
1	Cleaner, Labourer, Unskilled Worker	Work requires basic literacy and numeracy skills and the ability to perform a few straightforward and short-term tasks to instructions under immediate supervision. Previous experience is not necessary (IDS Job Level 1). Work requires developed literacy and numeracy skills and the ability to perform some routine tasks within procedures that may include keyboard and practical skills and initial contact with customers. Some previous experience is required (IDS Job Level 2).
2	Administrative Assistant, Driver, Operator	Work requires specific administrative, practical, craft or technical skills gained by previous experience and qualifications to carry out a range of less routine work and to provide specialist support, and could include closer contact with the public/customers (IDS Job Level 3).
3	Technician, Craftsman, Skilled Worker	Work requires broad and deep administrative, technical or craft skills and experience to carry out a wider range of activities including staff supervision, undertaking specialist routines and procedures and providing some advice (IDS Job Level 4).
4	Craftsman - Multiskilled, HR/Personnel Officer, Retail Manager	Work requires detailed experience and possibly some level of vocational qualification to be able to oversee the operation of an important procedure or to provide specialist advice and services, involving applied knowledge of internal systems and procedures (IDS Job Level 5).
5	Engineer, Marketing Junior Manager, Warehouse Supervisor	Work requires a vocational qualification and sufficient relevant specialist experience to be able to manage a section or operate with self-contained expertise in a specialist discipline or activity (IDS Job Level 6).
6	Area Sales/Account Manager, Engineer - Senior, Manager - Middle	Work is concerned with the provision of professional services and requires an experienced and qualified professional to provide expertise and advice and operate independently. Also includes operational managers responsible for service delivery (IDS Job Level 7).
7	Engineering Manager, Lawyer - Senior, Operations Manager	Work requires deep professional experience and qualifications in a specific discipline to be able to carry out a range of specialist technical or scientific activities, which may include the management of a team or services. May also include specialist management roles responsible for delivery of a major service (IDS Job Level 8).
8	Finance Function Head, IT Function Head, Sales Function Head	Senior managerial roles involved in managing an important activity or providing authoritative expertise, also contributing to the organisation as a whole through significant experience (IDS Job Level 9).
9	Finance Director, HR Director, Lawyer - Head of Legal	Very senior executive roles with substantial experience in, and leadership of, a specialist function, including some input to the organisation's overall strategy (IDS Job Level 10).

**Table 2**  
**Wages per Job Level**

This table shows the distribution of wages for each job level, or skill category, across all firm-year observations. Wages are in GBP. Job levels are described in Table 1. The sample period is from 2004 to 2013.

<b>Job Level</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>Avg. Wage</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>75%</b>
1	696	13,778	11,090	13,413	16,001
2	890	16,248	13,122	16,354	18,731
3	852	19,621	16,471	19,715	22,371
4	1,034	22,815	19,662	22,562	25,344
5	955	29,352	24,783	28,496	32,901
6	868	38,878	31,961	36,806	43,330
7	696	52,977	40,632	48,793	60,587
8	461	85,014	57,967	74,236	100,813
9	240	110,693	77,844	101,494	131,004

**Table 3**  
**Wage Ratios / Skill Premia**

This table shows the distribution of wage ratios, or skill premia, for all 36 job-level pairs. Wage ratios are computed by dividing the wage associated with the higher job level by the wage associated with the lower job level when both wages are observed in the same firm and year. Job levels are described in Table 1. Ratio > 1 (%) denotes the percentage of firm-year observations for which the wage ratio exceeds one. The sample period is from 2004 to 2013.

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>Avg. Wage Ratio</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>Ratio &gt; 1 (%)</b>
12	559	1.171	1.083	1.154	1.234	96
13	474	1.364	1.217	1.332	1.474	98
14	449	1.635	1.371	1.579	1.791	100
15	383	1.959	1.620	1.875	2.204	100
16	295	2.517	1.964	2.342	2.928	100
17	193	3.376	2.500	3.084	3.954	100
18	74	5.920	3.616	4.742	6.817	100
19	23	8.286	4.798	7.429	9.820	100
23	660	1.208	1.108	1.173	1.281	95
24	597	1.417	1.222	1.365	1.548	97
25	511	1.728	1.430	1.652	1.907	99
26	415	2.225	1.814	2.122	2.506	100
27	251	2.899	2.208	2.683	3.364	100
28	99	4.981	2.986	3.962	6.006	100
29	36	7.301	5.064	6.379	9.383	100
34	631	1.208	1.083	1.177	1.292	90
35	542	1.496	1.264	1.428	1.634	98
36	436	1.928	1.582	1.853	2.190	100
37	275	2.507	1.909	2.260	2.904	100
38	109	4.384	2.600	3.472	5.310	100
39	46	6.515	4.212	5.735	8.670	100
45	648	1.295	1.129	1.249	1.406	94
46	542	1.655	1.383	1.575	1.846	99
47	399	2.230	1.755	2.090	2.551	100
48	202	3.547	2.493	3.237	4.157	100
49	112	5.442	3.979	4.970	6.398	100



**Table 3 (continued)**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>Avg. Wage Ratio</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>Ratio &gt; 1 ( % )</b>
56	693	1.315	1.161	1.278	1.429	94
57	557	1.770	1.497	1.702	1.975	99
58	346	2.720	2.059	2.463	3.055	100
59	193	3.826	2.837	3.641	4.534	100
67	576	1.362	1.220	1.338	1.468	96
68	391	2.013	1.598	1.875	2.209	100
69	214	2.806	2.088	2.685	3.296	100
78	397	1.480	1.240	1.391	1.601	98
79	213	2.121	1.700	1.981	2.391	100
89	201	1.529	1.294	1.464	1.682	98

**Table 4**  
**Skill Premia and Firm Size**

The dependent variable is the skill premium, or wage ratio (in logs), associated with a given job-level pair. Firm size is measured as the number of employees (in logs). All regressions include year fixed effects. Standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the firm level. The sample period is from 2004 to 2013. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively.

**Panel (A):**

Job-Level Pair	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
lg_empl	-0.00117 (0.00345)	-0.00462 (0.00506)	0.00791 (0.00656)	0.00896 (0.00926)	0.0375*** (0.0115)	0.0883*** (0.0152)	0.162*** (0.0259)	0.179*** (0.0392)
Constant	0.171*** (0.0296)	0.373*** (0.0489)	0.462*** (0.0664)	0.626*** (0.0932)	0.568*** (0.133)	0.445** (0.213)	-0.232 (0.195)	0.372 (0.252)
Observations	559	474	449	383	295	193	74	23
R-squared	0.024	0.040	0.070	0.050	0.147	0.377	0.505	0.740

**Panel (B):**

Job-Level Pair	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
lg_empl	-0.0109*** (0.00370)	-0.00493 (0.00545)	-0.00905 (0.00659)	0.00584 (0.00883)	0.0605*** (0.0115)	0.133*** (0.0256)	0.152*** (0.0382)
Constant	0.268*** (0.0337)	0.391*** (0.0511)	0.632*** (0.0675)	0.662*** (0.0826)	0.482*** (0.123)	0.198 (0.196)	0.714** (0.326)
Observations	660	597	511	415	251	99	36
R-squared	0.037	0.029	0.061	0.027	0.209	0.398	0.361

**Panel (C):**

Job-Level Pair	34	35	36	37	38	39
lg_empl	0.00412 (0.00534)	0.00712 (0.00750)	0.0187* (0.0103)	0.0717*** (0.0152)	0.147*** (0.0292)	0.159*** (0.0370)
Constant	0.147*** (0.0445)	0.320*** (0.0671)	0.396*** (0.0850)	0.246 (0.154)	0.476*** (0.166)	0.247 (0.284)
Observations	631	542	436	275	109	46
R-squared	0.024	0.027	0.044	0.239	0.347	0.407

**Panel (D):**

Job-Level Pair	45	46	47	48	49
lg_empl	-0.000639 (0.00429)	0.0205*** (0.00660)	0.0566*** (0.00791)	0.105*** (0.0126)	0.102*** (0.0188)
Constant	0.207*** (0.0423)	0.271*** (0.0569)	0.147 (0.0940)	0.330*** (0.0718)	0.888*** (0.257)
Observations	648	542	399	202	112
R-squared	0.023	0.061	0.195	0.323	0.266

**Table 4 (continued)****Panel (E):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>
lg_empl	0.0201*** (0.00450)	0.0413*** (0.00617)	0.0887*** (0.0111)	0.0914*** (0.0132)
Constant	0.0874* (0.0472)	0.0916 (0.0702)	0.276*** (0.0630)	0.742*** (0.143)
Observations	693	557	346	193
R-squared	0.071	0.160	0.272	0.221

**Panel (F):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>
lg_empl	0.0176*** (0.00426)	0.0559*** (0.00928)	0.0618*** (0.0124)
Constant	0.0493 (0.0405)	0.119** (0.0529)	0.602*** (0.137)
Observations	576	391	214
R-squared	0.059	0.166	0.131

**Panel (G):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>79</b>
lg_empl	0.0326*** (0.00822)	0.0457*** (0.0103)
Constant	0.0310 (0.0468)	0.361*** (0.0790)
Observations	397	213
R-squared	0.101	0.106

**Panel (H):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>89</b>
lg_empl	0.0244*** (0.00875)
Constant	0.272*** (0.0923)
Observations	201
R-squared	0.050

**Table 5**  
**The Employer Size-Wage Effect Revisited**

The dependent variable is the wage (in logs) associated with a given job level, or skill category. Firm size is measured as the number of employees (in logs). All regressions include year fixed effects. The regression in column “All” additionally includes job-level fixed effects. Standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the firm level. The sample period is from 2004 to 2013. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively.

<b>Job Level</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
lg_empl	0.0126*** (0.00460)	-0.0208*** (0.00614)	-0.00631 (0.00704)	-0.0110 (0.00698)	0.00115 (0.00505)
Constant	4.789*** (0.0364)	5.020*** (0.0525)	5.123*** (0.0560)	5.361*** (0.0545)	5.470*** (0.0431)
Observations	6,692	696	890	852	1034
R-squared	0.825	0.079	0.013	0.036	0.027

<b>Job Level</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
lg_empl	0.000350 (0.00628)	0.0262*** (0.00559)	0.0535*** (0.00714)	0.0884*** (0.0132)	0.104*** (0.0143)
Constant	5.631*** (0.0493)	5.656*** (0.0498)	5.701*** (0.0889)	6.001*** (0.0750)	6.089*** (0.110)
Observations	955	868	696	461	240
R-squared	0.041	0.061	0.151	0.223	0.227

**Table 6**  
**Routine versus Non-Routine Jobs**

Panel (A) shows the distribution of routine and non-routine jobs for each job level, or skill category. In Panel (B), the dependent variable is the wage (in logs) associated with a given job level/routine (job level/non-routine) pair. Firm size is measured as the number of employees (in logs). Routine is a dummy variable that equals one when a job title is classified as routine as described in Section 4.1. The sample in Panel (B) is comprised of job levels 1 to 6. All regressions include year and job-level fixed effects. Standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the firm level. The sample period is from 2004 to 2013. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively.

Panel (A):				Panel (B):		
Job Level	Non-Routine	Routine	Routine/ Non-Routine		(1)	(2)
1	35	193	5.514	lg_empl	0.0127** (0.00588)	0.0126** (0.00575)
2	32	379	11.844	lg_empl × routine	-0.0176** (0.00856)	
3	74	290	3.919	routine	0.0984 (0.0665)	
4	213	177	0.831	lg_empl × routine_lev1		-0.0211* (0.0124)
5	416	61	0.147	lg_empl × routine_lev2		-0.0150 (0.0106)
6	363	81	0.223	lg_empl × routine_lev3		-0.00855 (0.0105)
7	414	19	0.046	lg_empl × routine_lev4		-0.0348*** (0.0114)
8	204	0	0.000	lg_empl × routine_lev5		-0.0381** (0.0174)
9	163	0	0.000	lg_empl × routine_lev6		-0.0166 (0.0131)
				routine_lev1		0.184* (0.102)
				routine_lev2		0.194** (0.0928)
				routine_lev3		0.0394 (0.0833)
				routine_lev4		0.194** (0.0942)
				routine_lev5		0.287** (0.134)
				routine_lev6		0.0305 (0.0962)
				Constant	4.848*** (0.0535)	4.802*** (0.0666)
				Observations	2,314	2,314
				R-squared	0.718	0.722

**Table 7**  
**Managerial versus Non-Managerial Jobs**

Panel (A) shows the distribution of managerial and non-managerial jobs for each job level, or skill category. In Panel (B), the dependent variable is the wage (in logs) associated with a given job level/managerial (job level/non-managerial) pair. Firm size is measured as the number of employees (in logs). Managerial is a dummy variable that equals one when a job title is classified as managerial as described in Section 4.2. All regressions include year and job-level fixed effects. The sample in Panel (B) is comprised of job levels 3 to 8. Standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the firm level. The sample period is from 2004 to 2013. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively.

Panel (A):				Panel (B):		
Job Level	Non-Managerial	Managerial	Managerial/ Non-Managerial		(1)	(2)
1	398	3	0.0075	lg_empl	0.00819* (0.00497)	0.00802 (0.00498)
2	565	19	0.0336	lg_empl × managerial	0.00877 (0.00813)	
3	456	70	0.1535	managerial	-0.0525 (0.0606)	
4	429	71	0.1655	lg_empl × managerial_lev3		-0.00556 (0.0287)
5	515	228	0.4427	lg_empl × managerial_lev4		-0.0637* (0.0357)
6	345	354	1.0261	lg_empl × managerial_lev5		-0.0465*** (0.0176)
7	217	393	1.8111	lg_empl × managerial_lev6		0.00562 (0.00950)
8	50	202	4.0400	lg_empl × managerial_lev7		0.0382*** (0.00744)
9	0	168	ND	lg_empl × managerial_lev8		0.0837*** (0.0129)
				managerial_lev3		-0.150 (0.250)
				managerial_lev4		0.545* (0.318)
				managerial_lev5		0.403*** (0.125)
				managerial_lev6		0.00793 (0.0676)
				managerial_lev7		-0.287*** (0.0603)
				managerial_lev8		-0.431*** (0.113)
				Constant	5.175*** (0.0412)	5.205*** (0.0415)
				Observations	3,330	3,330
				R-squared	0.691	0.711

**Table 8**  
**Within-Firm Changes in Skill Premia**

The dependent variable is the skill premium, or wage ratio (in logs), associated with a given job-level pair. The sample in the column “Middle-Bottom” is comprised of job-level pairs 14, 15, 24, and 25 (“overall wage inequality”), that in the column “Top-Middle” is comprised of job-level pairs 48, 49, 58, and 59 (“upper-tail wage inequality”), and that in the column “Top-Bottom” is comprised of job-level pairs 18, 19, 28, and 29 (“lower-tail wage inequality”). Firm size is measured as the number of employees (in logs). All regressions include firm, year, and job-level pair fixed effects. Standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the firm level. The sample period is from 2004 to 2013. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively.

<b>Job-Level Pairs</b>	<b>Middle-Bottom</b>	<b>Top-Middle</b>	<b>Top-Bottom</b>
lg_empl	0.0130 (0.0211)	0.108** (0.0421)	0.777*** (0.275)
Constant	0.466*** (0.162)	0.113 (0.321)	-4.213* (2.232)
Observations	1,940	853	232
R-squared	0.716	0.811	0.880

**Table 9**  
**Firm Growth in Developed Countries**

This table shows for each country the first and last year in the sample, number of country-year observations, and change in average employment (“change in firm size”) among the 50 (100) largest firms in the country between the first and last sample year. The sample is the merged LIS-Worldscope sample described in Section 5.3. The sample period is from 1981 to 2010.

Country	Top 50 Firms				Top 100 Firms			
	First Year	Last Year	Obs.	Change in Firm Size	First Year	Last Year	Obs.	Change in Firm Size
Australia	1985	2001	4	37.1%	1995	2001	2	16.2%
Austria	1994	2004	4	82.8%	1997	2000	2	18.3%
Belgium	1988	2000	5	112.2%	1992	2000	4	35.4%
Canada	1981	2010	10	73.1%	1981	2010	10	80.7%
Denmark	1995	2010	5	-2.1%	1995	2010	5	-4.3%
Finland	1987	2010	7	58.6%	1991	2010	5	46.7%
France	1994	2005	3	48.3%	1994	2005	3	40.3%
Germany	1984	2010	7	91.0%	1984	2010	7	87.3%
Greece	1995	2010	5	192.6%	1995	2010	5	201.7%
Italy	1987	2010	10	31.5%	1987	2010	10	30.3%
Netherlands	1983	2010	8	107.9%	1987	2010	7	87.1%
Spain	1995	2010	5	200.3%	1995	2010	5	185.9%
Sweden	1987	1995	3	13.6%	1987	1995	3	15.5%
United Kingdom	1986	2010	8	51.3%	1986	2010	8	43.5%
United States	1986	2010	8	55.8%	1986	2010	8	53.0%

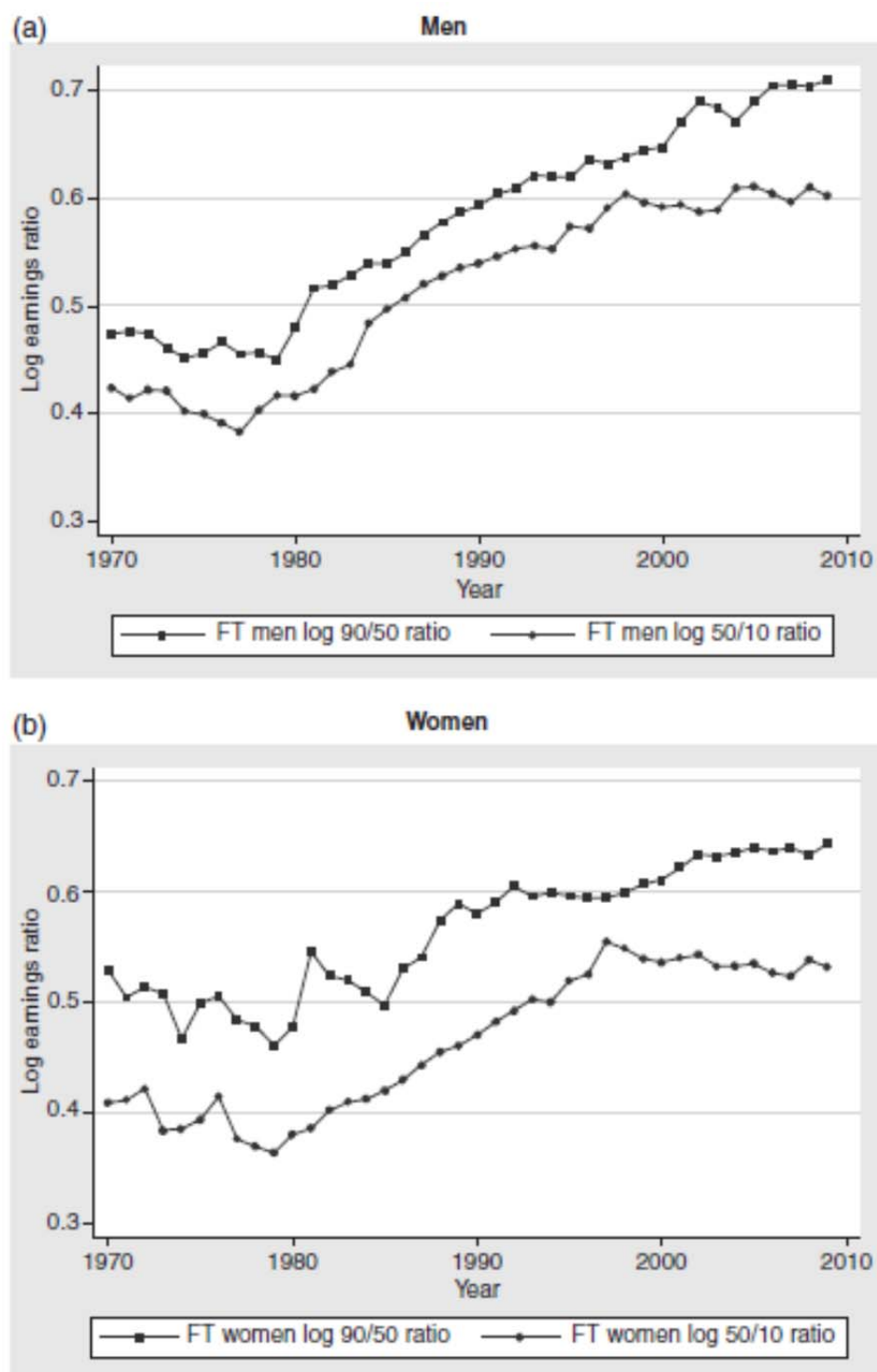


**Table 10**  
**Wage Inequality and Firm Growth**

The dependent variable is the log 90/10 wage differential. Firm size is measured as the average number of employees of the 50 (100) largest firms in a given country and year (in logs). The sample is the merged LIS-Worldscope sample described in Section 5.3. All regressions include country fixed effects. Those in columns (1) and (4) additionally include year fixed effects, while those in columns (2)-(3) and (5)-(6) include a linear time trend instead. Time trend is defined as the given year minus 1999. Robust standard errors are in parentheses. The sample period is from 1981 to 2010. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively.

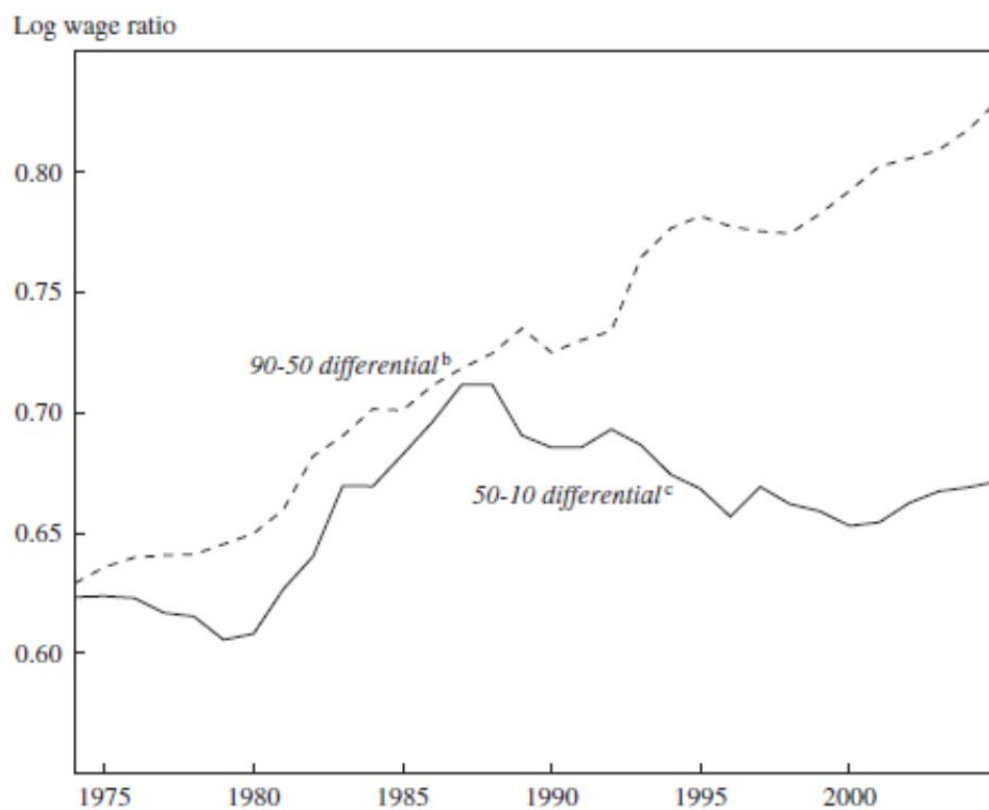
	Top 50 Firms			Top 100 Firms		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
lg_avg_empl	0.211*** (0.0739)		0.145** (0.0671)	0.206*** (0.0609)		0.183*** (0.0562)
time_trend		0.0104*** (0.00139)	0.00656*** (0.00193)		0.0111*** (0.00127)	0.00668*** (0.00172)
Constant	-1.227* (0.714)	1.170*** (0.0114)	-0.270 (0.665)	-1.021* (0.539)	1.170*** (0.00170)	-0.527 (0.522)
Observations	92	92	92	84	84	84
R-squared	0.892	0.857	0.863	0.944	0.914	0.923

**Figure 1**  
**Upper- and Lower-Tail Wage Inequality in the UK (1970-2009)**



Source: Machin (2010, Figure 11.2).

**Figure 2**  
**Upper- and Lower-Tail Wage Inequality in the US (1974-2005)**



Source: Goldin and Katz (2007, Figure 3).

# **Appendix**

**Appendix Table A1**  
**Original Ten IDS Job Levels**

This table presents variants of the regressions in Table 4 in which the original ten IDS job levels are used. All regressions include year fixed effects. Standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the firm level. The sample period is from 2004 to 2013. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively.

**Panel (A):**

Job-Level Pair	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	110
lg_empl	0.00212 (0.00993)	-0.00255 (0.0126)	-0.0108 (0.0177)	-0.00407 (0.0253)	0.0326 (0.0306)	0.0835* (0.0441)	0.169*** (0.0455)	0.192*** (0.0562)	0.471*** (0.0259)
Constant	0.147 (0.0945)	0.329*** (0.105)	0.580*** (0.148)	0.742** (0.291)	0.487 (0.352)	-0.215 (0.463)	-0.199 (0.349)	0.0827 (0.610)	-2.970*** (0.293)
Observations	101	95	86	66	49	30	22	13	7
R-squared	0.056	0.055	0.063	0.095	0.222	0.290	0.527	0.608	0.993

**Panel (B):**

Job-Level Pair	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	210
lg_empl	-0.00204 (0.00308)	-0.00671 (0.00482)	0.00522 (0.00642)	0.00735 (0.00937)	0.0359*** (0.0115)	0.0861*** (0.0153)	0.160*** (0.0257)	0.176*** (0.0374)
Constant	0.177*** (0.0272)	0.387*** (0.0485)	0.482*** (0.0651)	0.637*** (0.0938)	0.582*** (0.133)	0.467** (0.214)	0.216 (0.179)	0.395 (0.241)
Observations	553	467	447	378	292	191	73	22
R-squared	0.028	0.047	0.064	0.047	0.147	0.376	0.506	0.742

**Panel (C):**

Job-Level Pair	34	35	36	37	38	39	310
lg_empl	-0.0109*** (0.00370)	-0.00493 (0.00545)	-0.00905 (0.00659)	0.00584 (0.00883)	0.0605*** (0.0115)	0.133*** (0.0256)	0.152*** (0.0382)
Constant	0.268*** (0.0337)	0.391*** (0.0511)	0.632*** (0.0675)	0.662*** (0.0826)	0.482*** (0.123)	0.198 (0.196)	0.714** (0.326)
Observations	660	597	511	415	251	99	36
R-squared	0.037	0.029	0.061	0.027	0.209	0.398	0.361

**Panel (D):**

Job-Level Pair	45	46	47	48	49	410
lg_empl	0.00412 (0.00534)	0.00712 (0.00750)	0.0187* (0.0103)	0.0717*** (0.0152)	0.147*** (0.0292)	0.159*** (0.0370)
Constant	0.147*** (0.0445)	0.320*** (0.0671)	0.396*** (0.0850)	0.246 (0.154)	0.476*** (0.166)	0.247 (0.284)
Observations	631	542	436	275	109	46
R-squared	0.024	0.027	0.044	0.239	0.347	0.407

**Appendix Table A1 (continued)**

**Panel (E):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>510</b>
lg_empl	-0.000639 (0.00429)	0.0205*** (0.00660)	0.0566*** (0.00791)	0.105*** (0.0126)	0.102*** (0.0188)
Constant	0.207*** (0.0423)	0.271*** (0.0569)	0.147 (0.0940)	0.330*** (0.0718)	0.888*** (0.257)
Observations	648	542	399	202	112
R-squared	0.023	0.061	0.195	0.323	0.266

**Panel (F):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>610</b>
lg_empl	0.0201*** (0.00450)	0.0413*** (0.00617)	0.0887*** (0.0111)	0.0914*** (0.0132)
Constant	0.0874* (0.0472)	0.0916 (0.0702)	0.276*** (0.0630)	0.742*** (0.143)
Observations	693	557	346	193
R-squared	0.071	0.160	0.272	0.221

**Panel (G):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>710</b>
lg_empl	0.0176*** (0.00426)	0.0559*** (0.00928)	0.0618*** (0.0124)
Constant	0.0493 (0.0405)	0.119* (0.0529)	0.602*** (0.137)
Observations	576	391	214
R-squared	0.059	0.166	0.131

**Panel (H):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>810</b>
lg_empl	0.0326*** (0.00822)	0.0457*** (0.0103)
Constant	0.0310 (0.0468)	0.361*** (0.0790)
Observations	397	213
R-squared	0.101	0.106

**Panel (I):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>910</b>
lg_empl	0.0244*** (0.00875)
Constant	0.272*** (0.0923)
Observations	201
R-squared	0.050

**Appendix Table A2**  
**Measuring Firm Size Using Firms' Sales**

This table presents variants of the regressions in Table 4 in which firm size is measured using firms' sales (in logs). All regressions include year fixed effects. Standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the firm level. The sample period is from 2004 to 2013. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively.

**Panel (A):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
lg_sales	-0.000724 (0.00283)	-0.00665 (0.00431)	0.00221 (0.00582)	0.00122 (0.00842)	0.0246** (0.0102)	0.0765*** (0.0151)	0.133*** (0.0279)	0.150*** (0.0354)
Constant	0.166*** (0.0432)	0.435*** (0.0699)	0.484*** (0.0943)	0.668*** (0.134)	0.503*** (0.183)	-0.00329 (0.298)	-0.330 (0.379)	-0.729 (0.575)
Observations	580	490	462	394	302	198	78	26
R-squared	0.024	0.050	0.072	0.042	0.109	0.312	0.417	0.618

**Panel (B):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
lg_sales	-0.0143*** (0.00297)	-0.0119** (0.00476)	-0.0162** (0.00655)	-0.00548 (0.00757)	0.0472*** (0.0102)	0.110*** (0.0235)	0.110*** (0.0371)
Constant	0.405*** (0.0474)	0.537*** (0.0770)	0.812*** (0.106)	0.780*** (0.127)	0.242 (0.173)	-0.527 (0.372)	0.245 (0.572)
Observations	686	618	532	432	261	104	40
R-squared	0.066	0.049	0.078	0.024	0.156	0.369	0.249

**Panel (C):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>
lg_sales	-0.00229 (0.00465)	-0.00288 (0.00680)	0.00875 (0.00877)	0.0591*** (0.0141)	0.111*** (0.0293)	0.137*** (0.0339)
Constant	0.214*** (0.0726)	0.424*** (0.108)	0.402*** (0.140)	-0.0900 (0.239)	-0.0991 (0.373)	-1.101* (0.551)
Observations	648	557	445	280	112	48
R-squared	0.021	0.022	0.026	0.193	0.287	0.368

**Panel (D):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>
lg_sales	-0.00500 (0.00441)	0.0171*** (0.00619)	0.0499*** (0.00756)	0.0956*** (0.0138)	0.101*** (0.0186)
Constant	0.279*** (0.0720)	0.170* (0.0970)	-0.203 (0.135)	-0.530* (0.266)	0.147 (0.331)
Observations	666	557	412	209	115
R-squared	0.032	0.053	0.183	0.308	0.275

**Appendix Table A2 (continued)****Panel (E):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>
lg_sales	0.0134*** (0.00388)	0.0362*** (0.00539)	0.0684*** (0.0108)	0.0785*** (0.0130)
Constant	0.0384 (0.0683)	-0.165* (0.0989)	-0.324 (0.230)	0.149 (0.206)
Observations	716	577	361	203
R-squared	0.051	0.150	0.212	0.204

**Panel (F):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>
lg_sales	0.0153*** (0.00352)	0.0418*** (0.00843)	0.0514*** (0.0111)
Constant	-0.0488 (0.0585)	-0.0943 (0.107)	0.130 (0.175)
Observations	598	407	225
R-squared	0.055	0.133	0.119

**Panel (G):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>79</b>
lg_sales	0.0301*** (0.00712)	0.0382*** (0.0104)
Constant	-0.154 (0.104)	0.109 (0.164)
Observations	415	224
R-squared	0.091	0.098

**Panel (H):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>89</b>
lg_sales	0.0262*** (0.00789)
Constant	0.0667 (0.126)
Observations	212
R-squared	0.068



**Appendix Table A3**  
**Winsorizing Firm Size at the 1% Level**

This table presents variants of the regressions in Table 4 in which firm size is winsorized at the 1% level. All regressions include year fixed effects. Standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the firm level. The sample period is from 2004 to 2013. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively.

**Panel (A):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
lg_empl	-0.000850 (0.00323)	-0.00470 (0.00482)	0.00756 (0.00617)	0.00877 (0.00862)	0.0343*** (0.0109)	0.0805*** (0.0141)	0.157*** (0.0258)	0.172*** (0.0410)
Constant	0.169*** (0.0277)	0.374*** (0.0473)	0.465*** (0.0642)	0.628*** (0.0889)	0.597*** (0.129)	0.521** (0.207)	-0.195 (0.196)	0.417 (0.264)
Observations	559	474	449	383	295	193	74	23
R-squared	0.024	0.041	0.070	0.050	0.143	0.366	0.503	0.725

**Panel (B):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
lg_empl	-0.0106*** (0.00348)	-0.00453 (0.00509)	-0.00814 (0.00630)	0.00588 (0.00840)	0.0543*** (0.0110)	0.132*** (0.0252)	0.152*** (0.0382)
Constant	0.266*** (0.0321)	0.388*** (0.0483)	0.624*** (0.0656)	0.662*** (0.0800)	0.536*** (0.122)	0.209 (0.193)	0.715** (0.326)
Observations	660	597	511	415	251	99	36
R-squared	0.038	0.029	0.060	0.027	0.196	0.399	0.361

**Panel (C):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>
lg_empl	0.00449 (0.00506)	0.00782 (0.00706)	0.0184* (0.00977)	0.0660*** (0.0144)	0.142*** (0.0284)	0.156*** (0.0376)
Constant	0.145*** (0.0423)	0.314*** (0.0639)	0.399*** (0.0817)	0.293** (0.148)	0.504*** (0.162)	0.272 (0.288)
Observations	631	542	436	275	109	46
R-squared	0.024	0.028	0.045	0.229	0.345	0.402

**Panel (D):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>
lg_empl	-0.000185 (0.00401)	0.0193*** (0.00612)	0.0510*** (0.00765)	0.0985*** (0.0136)	0.0901*** (0.0195)
Constant	0.203*** (0.0403)	0.280*** (0.0545)	0.189** (0.0919)	0.365*** (0.0774)	0.996*** (0.266)
Observations	648	542	399	202	112
R-squared	0.023	0.060	0.186	0.311	0.243

**Appendix Table A3 (continued)**

**Panel (E):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>
lg_empl	0.0186*** (0.00434)	0.0368*** (0.00602)	0.0823*** (0.0104)	0.0823*** (0.0124)
Constant	0.0993** (0.0466)	0.127* (0.0688)	0.312*** (0.0593)	0.808*** (0.141)
Observations	693	557	346	193
R-squared	0.070	0.149	0.265	0.209

**Panel (F):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>
lg_empl	0.0155*** (0.00433)	0.0506*** (0.00933)	0.0576*** (0.0116)
Constant	0.0644 (0.0404)	0.149*** (0.0532)	0.634*** (0.136)
Observations	576	391	214
R-squared	0.055	0.156	0.128

**Panel (G):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>79</b>
lg_empl	0.0312*** (0.00769)	0.0429*** (0.00946)
Constant	0.0390 (0.0438)	0.383*** (0.0725)
Observations	397	213
R-squared	0.102	0.105

**Panel (H):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>89</b>
lg_empl	0.0226*** (0.00790)
Constant	0.287*** (0.0883)
Observations	201
R-squared	0.048

**Appendix Table A4**  
**Within-Industry Analysis**

This table presents variants of the regressions in Table 4 which include both year and 2-digit SIC industry fixed effects. Standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the firm level. The sample period is from 2004 to 2013. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively.

**Panel (A):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
lg_empl	-0.00313 (0.00435)	-0.00906 (0.00813)	-0.0131 (0.0101)	-0.0123 (0.00907)	0.0175 (0.0127)	0.0491*** (0.0159)	0.107** (0.0414)	0.185* (0.0991)
Constant	0.280*** (0.0337)	0.125* (0.0647)	0.515*** (0.0845)	0.860*** (0.0948)	0.951*** (0.113)	0.736*** (0.235)	0.592** (0.289)	-0.104 (1.217)
Observations	552	468	442	377	291	190	73	22
R-squared	0.155	0.178	0.287	0.336	0.380	0.588	0.680	0.949

**Panel (B):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
lg_empl	-0.0154*** (0.00455)	-0.0207*** (0.00619)	-0.0173** (0.00672)	-0.0101 (0.00878)	0.0313** (0.0128)	0.0817** (0.0324)	0.224** (0.104)
Constant	0.577*** (0.0314)	0.739*** (0.0775)	0.953*** (0.0590)	0.581*** (0.0704)	0.402*** (0.134)	-0.462 (0.511)	-0.648 (1.225)
Observations	652	589	506	412	249	99	36
R-squared	0.194	0.289	0.347	0.351	0.443	0.607	0.859

**Panel (C):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>
lg_empl	-0.00296 (0.00477)	0.000319 (0.00611)	0.00739 (0.00864)	0.0417*** (0.0123)	0.110*** (0.0289)	0.0949 (0.0571)
Constant	0.385*** (0.0384)	0.700*** (0.0475)	0.394*** (0.0619)	0.514*** (0.195)	-0.0876 (0.401)	0.212 (0.703)
Observations	622	537	434	274	109	46
R-squared	0.265	0.283	0.319	0.432	0.596	0.790

**Panel (D):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>
lg_empl	0.00647 (0.00540)	0.0231*** (0.00732)	0.0516*** (0.0101)	0.0912*** (0.0174)	0.111*** (0.0293)
Constant	0.323*** (0.0434)	0.188** (0.0945)	-0.0307 (0.138)	0.248 (0.246)	0.402* (0.232)
Observations	642	539	397	201	111
R-squared	0.150	0.227	0.335	0.510	0.565

**Appendix Table A4 (continued)****Panel (E):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>
lg_empl	0.0161*** (0.00518)	0.0348*** (0.00626)	0.0786*** (0.0141)	0.0889*** (0.0189)
Constant	0.0477 (0.0386)	0.114* (0.0598)	0.342 (0.323)	0.954*** (0.209)
Observations	689	554	344	192
R-squared	0.212	0.309	0.430	0.493

**Panel (F):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>
lg_empl	0.0144** (0.00574)	0.0488*** (0.0125)	0.0434** (0.0185)
Constant	0.129*** (0.0430)	-0.171 (0.200)	1.205*** (0.228)
Observations	572	388	213
R-squared	0.161	0.290	0.364

**Panel (G):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>79</b>
lg_empl	0.0306*** (0.00931)	0.0465*** (0.0137)
Constant	-0.159 (0.153)	0.191 (0.150)
Observations	395	212
R-squared	0.298	0.370

**Panel (H):**

<b>Job-Level Pair</b>	<b>89</b>
lg_empl	0.0150 (0.0123)
Constant	0.724*** (0.163)
Observations	200
R-squared	0.288

**Appendix Table A5**  
**Median Employment of the 50 (100) Largest Firms**

This table presents variants of the regressions in Table 10 in which firm size is measured as the *median* number of employees of the 50 (100) largest firms in a given country and year (in logs). The sample is the merged LIS-Worldscope sample described in Section 5.3. All regressions include country fixed effects. Those in columns (1) and (4) additionally include year fixed effects, while those in columns (2)-(3) and (5)-(6) include a linear time trend instead. Time trend is defined as the given year minus 1999. Robust standard errors are in parentheses. The sample period is from 1981 to 2010. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denotes significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively.

	Top 50 Firms			Top 100 Firms		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
lg_med_empl	0.158*** (0.0588)		0.120** (0.0522)	0.154*** (0.0609)		0.108* (0.0523)
time_trend		0.0104*** (0.00139)	0.00740*** (0.00170)		0.0111*** (0.00127)	0.00859*** (0.00146)
Constant	-0.612 (0.512)	1.170*** (0.0114)	0.0655 (0.478)	-0.301 (0.461)	1.170*** (0.00170)	0.298 (0.423)
Observations	92	92	92	84	84	84
R-squared	0.893	0.857	0.863	0.942	0.914	0.919