

Dimensions of wage inequality, log wage differentials, 1973-2003

	Men's wage inequality			Women's wage inequality		
	90/50	50/10	90/10	90/50	50/10	90/10
1973	0.60	0.68	1.28	0.59	0.57	1.16
1974	0.58	0.67	1.25	0.59	0.45	1.04
1975	0.58	0.70	1.28	0.60	0.49	1.09
1976	0.61	0.68	1.29	0.61	0.45	1.06
1977	0.59	0.70	1.29	0.61	0.41	1.02
1978	0.59	0.70	1.29	0.61	0.44	1.05
1979	0.59	0.71	1.30	0.61	0.39	0.99
1980	0.56	0.72	1.29	0.60	0.45	1.05
1981	0.60	0.73	1.33	0.63	0.41	1.04
1982	0.62	0.77	1.39	0.65	0.45	1.10
1983	0.65	0.79	1.44	0.65	0.49	1.15
1984	0.67	0.79	1.46	0.66	0.53	1.19
1985	0.67	0.80	1.48	0.69	0.56	1.25
1986	0.66	0.82	1.48	0.68	0.59	1.27
1987	0.69	0.82	1.50	0.67	0.63	1.30
1988	0.70	0.78	1.48	0.69	0.65	1.34
1989	0.69	0.75	1.44	0.71	0.64	1.35
1990	0.73	0.75	1.48	0.71	0.64	1.34
1991	0.73	0.77	1.49	0.72	0.62	1.34
1992	0.74	0.77	1.51	0.74	0.61	1.35
1993	0.76	0.77	1.53	0.74	0.61	1.35
1994	0.77	0.76	1.53	0.77	0.61	1.38
1995	0.76	0.75	1.51	0.77	0.61	1.38
1996	0.76	0.74	1.49	0.77	0.62	1.39
1997	0.77	0.72	1.50	0.76	0.63	1.39
1998	0.78	0.73	1.51	0.77	0.59	1.36
1999	0.78	0.71	1.49	0.78	0.58	1.36
2000	0.79	0.71	1.50	0.78	0.59	1.38
2001	0.79	0.71	1.50	0.78	0.60	1.38
2002	0.81	0.72	1.53	0.76	0.60	1.37
2003	0.82	0.70	1.52	0.78	0.60	1.38

Source: *The State of Working America 2004-05*, table 2.16.

All of the data are based on analysis of the ORG CPS data described in Appendix B.

The measures of "total wage inequality" are natural logs of wage ratios (multiplied by 100) computed from Table 2.7 and 2.8.

The exception is that the 1979 data for women are 1978-80 averages. This was done to smooth the volatility of the series, especially at the 10th percentile. The "between group inequalities" are computed from regressions of the log of hourly wages on education categorical variables (high school omitted), experiences as a quartic, marital status, race, and region (4).

The college/high school and high school/less-than-high-school premiums are simply the coefficient on "college" and "less than high school". The experience differentials are the differences in the value of ages

(calculated from the coefficients of the quartic specification) evaluated at 23, 35, and 50 years.

Within-group wage inequality is measured as the root mean square error from the same log wage regressions used to compute age and education differentials.