

"Industry Wage Differentials and the Gender Wage Gap"

Judith Fields* and Edward N. Wolff**

April, 1993

Abstract. Using the March, 1988, Current Population Survey, we find significant interindustry hourly wage differentials for female workers, which are significant even after controlling for variations in the productivity-related characteristics of workers. These are at least as large and as varied as those for males, but highly correlated with male industry wage differentials. In spite of this, there are considerable differences in the industry wage differentials for the two sexes. Of the overall sex wage gap of about 0.35, 12 - 22 percent can be explained by differences in the industry coefficients for male and female workers and 15-19 percent by differences in the distribution of male and female workers across industries. Thus, the combined industry effects explain about one-third of the overall sex wage gap.

JEL CODES: J16 J21, J31, J71

KEYWORDS: Labor, Wages, Discrimination

* Lehman College of City University of New York and the Jerome Levy Economics Institute at Bard College.

** New York University.

We would like to thank the C.V. Starr Center for Applied Economics at New York University and the Jerome Levy Economics Institute at Bard College for financial support.