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STRUCTURE IN URUGUAY* MODELS OF WAGE DETERMINATION AND THE INDUSTRY WAGE

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Abstract:

wage differentials, and compares these differentials across occupations and the efficiency models of wage determination. levels to industry characteristics. The analyses are used to test the competitive establishment sizes, and across countries. The paper also relates industry wage the period 1968 to 1987. It analyzes the size and stability of intre-industry This paper examines the wage structure in Uruguayan manufacturing during

establishment sizes. In addition, some industry characteristics are positively ed between white - and blue-collar workers, and to a lesser extent, across differentials are substantial, they persist over time, they are strongly correlat correlated to wages. The results confirm the predictions of the efficiency wage model, as wage

Introduction

of time; and they are similar across countries and occupations. trolling for human capital variables; they have been remarkably stable over long periods of facts: the magnitude of the differentials is considerable; they persist even after conpattern of wage differentials in the U.S. economy. They have consistently found a number the recent labor market literature. Several papers have been devoted to examine the The study of inter-industry wage differentials has received an increased attention in

explanations for the existence of wage differentials. The competitive model explains wage Competitive and non-competitive models of wage determination give alternative

- * *
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differentials arguing the existence of compensating differentials, unobserved skill differences and transitory shifts of supply or demand for labor. On the other side, the most recurrent non-competitive hypotheses include efficiency wage, rent sharing and collective because in a models.

The empirical evidence of inter-industry wage structure suggests that the explanation for the observed regularities should consider non-competitive considerations. The remarkable stability of the differentials through time indicates that the differentials are not explained by transitory disequilibria in the labor market, but they correspond to a constant pattern of correlations; the high correlations of wage differentials across occupations reveal that there are high-wage and low-wage firms regardless the occupation. This rules out compensating differentials and unobserved skill differences.

While the evidence on wage differentials for developed economies is abundant, the subject has been far less investigated for Latin-American countries. The importance of studying the wage structure in these countries relies on the volatility of these economies that contrasts markedly with the stability of the U.S. economy.

Among Latin-American countries, Uruguay represents a very interesting study case given the sweeping economic and political changes that it has experienced during the last decades. Starting in the mid-seventies, a stabilization and liberalization programa was implemented to fight a historical stagnation, a galloping inflation, a growing fiscal deficit and adverse external shocks. One of the main objectives of this economic program was to increase the openness of the economy: import protection was lowered, export incentives were improved and the exchange rate system was simplified. Finally, various fiscal incentives to traditional and non-traditional exports were instituted.

The implementation of the policies also affected the labor market. The composition of the supply and demand for labor was modified, increasing the participation of secondary labor force, and the nominal wage rate was used as an instrument for stabilization. In addition, collective bargaining was severely restricted until 1985.

The objective of this paper is to study the inter-industry wage structure in Uruguay. It examines the size and stability of wage differentials, and compares these differentials across occupations and establishment-size classes. The analysis also compares wage differentials among Uruguay, Argentina and Chile, emphasizing the establishment size effect as a potential explanation for the high correlations across countries. Finally, the research estimates wage equations to examine industry characteristics associated with high wages.

Despite the important contrasts between the Uruguayan and the U.S. economies, our results show strong similariries to those of past studies. Wage differentials are larger than those reported for the U.S. industrial sector and they persist for a period of almost twenty years. The fact that wage differentials are highly correlated in a period characterized by economic and institutional changes suggests that wage differentials are not explained by transitory disequilibria: the correlations do not diminish over time but they reflect an underlying pattern of differentials. In addition, we find that wage differentials between white and blue collar workers are strongly correlated, as predicted by sociological and rent-sharing models, but the correlations are partially explained by the establishment-size effect.

We also find wage differentials in Uruguay to be highly correlated with those in Argentina and Chile. To some extent, however, these differentials reflect technologically-determined wage differences related to establishment size. The analysis of wage differentials across firm sizes confirms the effect of the establishment size on wages, large establishments pay higher wages than small establishments.

Besides this introduction the paper contains four sections. Section II briefly sum-

marizes competitive and efficiency wage models of wage determination, and the results of empirical research on wage differentials. Section III analyzes the pattern of the wage structure in Uruguay. It examines the dispersion in wages, the stability of the wage structure, the industry wage structures in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, the wage structure by establishment size and the wage structure across occupations. Section IV carries out the estimation of the wage equations. Finally, Section V presents the conclusions of this work.

II. Competitive and Efficiency Wage Models of Wage Determination

Differences in wages for equally qualified workers are explained by compensating differentials, unobserved worker characteristics, and transitory disequilibria under the competitive model. Compensating differentials generate wage differentials because diverse wages are needed to compensate equally qualified workers for a particular job attribute. For example, poor or dangerous working conditions should be compensated for with higher wages. Secondly, according to the unobserved skill argument, two equally skilled workers employed in the same firm may be paid differently if, for example, one is more motivated in the work than the other. Motivation is a factor that can be seen by the worker's suppervisor and recompensed for with a higher wage, but econometricians cannot control for it. Finally, wage differentials may reflect transitory shifts of supply or demand for labor. In this case, wage differentials will disappear when equilibrium is restored.

Alternatively, efficiency wage models argue that similarly skilled workers are paid differently according to the industry of employment. They emphasize the relationship between wages and productivity. Higher wages will increase productivity and, therefore, reducing wages will be unprofitable for firms.

These models identify different benefits for firms of high wage payments. Shapiro and Stiglitz (1984), Bulow and Summers (1986) and other authors argue that higher wages will deter workers from shirking and, therefore, higher wages may be an efficient alternative to monitoring workers. A second efficiency wage argument, formalized by Stiglitz (1974), states that labor turnover is costly for firms because they incur training and hiring costs, therefore they pay higher wages to reduce quitting.

A third efficiency wage explanation, advanced by Weiss (1980), argues adverse selection motives. This argument assumes that more competent workers have higher reservation wages than less competent workers, therefore higher wages will attract a more qualified pool of applicants to the firm. A fourth explanation for high payments adduces sociological reasons. A worker's effort depends on his perception of being fairly treated. This depends, in turn, on how profitable the firm is, Akerlof (1982, 1984) develops a model emphasizing these factors.

Finally, Lang (1990) argues that firms will decrease the number of job offers turned down by offering high wages. Weitzman (1989) suggests that firms will choose a variety of recruitment strategies because they face uncertainty about aggregate demand levels and labor market tightness. High wages will secure a reliable labor supply.

Similar to predictions of efficiency wage models are the results of the union threat model developed by Dickens (1986). In this case, high wages may arise as a consequence of collective action by workers, who can claim through collective bargaining a part of monopoly rents earned by firms. This benefit may be extended to nonunion workers.

The evidence supporting non-competitive models of wage determination is extensive. Krueger and Summers (1987, 1988) and Dickens and Katz (1987a, b) have consistently

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found a number of facts that are suggestive of efficiency wage predictions. Wage differentials persist even after controlling for human-capital variables, they have been remarkably stable over long periods of time, and they are similar across countries and occupations. In addition, workers who move from a low-wage industry to a high-wage industry capture the differential in wages showed by the industry. The opposite phenomenon is also observed. Furthermore, a strong negative correlation is found between wage differentials and quit rates.

Finally, a significant dispersion in wages has been reported even in well defined industries. The intra-industry differentials vary according to the specific industry but persist for long periods (Groshen, 1988 and Leonard, 1988).

This empirical evidence is difficult to reconcile with competitive market-clearing explanations of wage differentials. First, the standard deviation of inter-industry wage differentials is only slightly reduced when controlling for human capital variables (less than 10% in Krueger and Summers, 1988), and the correlation between wage differentials with and without controls is very high (see next section). Second, the remarkable constant pattern of the wage structure does not support transitory disequilibrium arguments. Third, wage differentials are highly correlated across occupations. On this fact, it is very unlikely that a firm would offer particularly poor working conditions or it would require highly qualified managers, and the same working conditions or job abilities would be required for janitors. Therefore, unobserved skill differences and compensating differentials do not explain solely the pattern of the wage structure. Finally, certain industry characteristics are associated with higher wages, in particular more profitable and more concentrated industries tend to pay better salaries (see more details in section IV).

In view of the failure of the competitive model to account for the evidence on wage differentials, efficiency wage models have been put forward as a better explanation of the empirical regularities.

The main implication of efficiency wage models is the existence of wage differentials in equilibrium. Similarly skilled workers are paid differently according to the industry of employment. These differentials do not reflect particular working conditions and, therefore, do not need to be compensated for with higher wages.

Different industry characteristics are predicted to affect wages by some efficiency wage approaches presented above. The most theoretically developed of all these models is the shirking model. This model predicts that higher wages will arise in industries where monitoring workers is costly². For empirical testing, costly worker monitoring has been assumed mostly in large establishments, typically industries with investments in expensive equipment³. A high capital-labor ratio is usually used as a proxy for empirical purposes.

Sociological models emphasize the importance of the teamwork, the worker's feeling of being fairly treated and the firms' ability to pay. All these conditions will increase the worker's effort on the job.

It is necessary to note that the strong correlation presented by wage differentials across occupations impose problems to most efficiency wage models. A high correlation across occupations means that some firms pay higher wages to managers, secretaries and janitors, while other firms pay lower wages regardless the occupation. This implication is not derived from most efficiency wage models. However it can be derived from models based on norms. These models argue equity considerations and the worker's concern for his relative wage position in the firm's wage structure as an explanation for a correlation in wages across occupations. Likewise, rent-sharing models, linking wages to the firms ability to pay, seem to be more consistent with that empirical evidence.

III. The Industry Wage Structure in Uruguay

As mentioned in the Introduction, the industry wage structure in Uruguay is a very appealing study case given the political, economic and institutional changes that the country experienced during the last decades.

It is particularly interesting to study the behavior of wage differentials in the presence of large output, employment and real wage fluctuations, and major changes in the situation of unions. In addition, changes in demand across sectors coming from the implementation of liberalization and stabilization policies are expected to have different repercussions on wages in the competitive model than in the efficiency wage explanations. In the competitive model, liberalization policies will likely induce changes in labor demand that may produce transitory differentials which will tend to disappear as the labor market returns to equilibrium. On the other hand, a more permanent effect could be envisaged under the efficiency wage hypotheses.⁴

1. Sources of Information and Industry Wage Dispersion

The analysis carried out in this paper uses manufacturing censuses and surveys as sources of information. We count on manufacturing censuses for 1968 and 1978, and on manufacturing surveys from 1980 to 1987. This data set has the advantage of allowing us to study the behavior of wage differentials over a long period of time. However, the use of aggregate data is not without costs. The most important shortcoming of the data is the lack of worker characteristics. This prevent us from controlling for human capital variables to calculate wage differentials.

Failing on to control for human capital variables has been referred to in the literature as a "naive" way of measuring wage dispersion. As different industries may employ workers with different qualifications, there is no reason to expect equal wage structure across industries. However, this approach finds strong support from results of the recent empirical literature on wage differentials. Krueger and Summers (1987) find that wage differentials with and without labor quality controls in the U.S. industrial sector are highly correlated (0.95). An even higher correlation (0.97) is reported for Brazilian manufacturing by Gatica, Mizala and Romanguera (1990). Finally, Márquez (1989) reports a correlation of 0.84 in 1985 for Venezuela, and Romaguera (1989) shows a correlation of 0.68 for 1987 for Chile⁵

In short, the empirical evidence suggests that controlling for human capital variables does reduce but does not change the pattern of wage differentials. However, we recommend to take our results with caution.

To study the variability in wages across industries in Uruguay we use the employment-weighted standard deviation of wage differentials. This measure is calculated on three different International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) codes. The first includes 70 industries on a four-digit basis covering 1981-87, the second includes 25 industries on a three-digit basis for 1978, and the calculations for 1968 use the two-digit ISIC code with 21 industries

Wage differentials in Uruguay are larger than those reported for the U.S. economy. Krueger & Summers (1987), using the 1984 Current Population Survey (CPS), reported 0.24 of weighted standard deviation with no labor quality controls. Our results in Table 1 show a high and relatively stable dispersion in wages. The wage dispersion is 0.212 for 1968, 0.246 for 1978, and ranging from 0.308 to 0.353 in the 1980s. This decrease in wage differentials at lower ISIC codes reflects that the differentials tend to compensate at more aggregate levels of classifications⁶.

MODELS OF WAGE DETERMINATION

emphasizing efficiency elements in the wage structure, the differentials are persistent in developed countries. On the same way, our results are suggestive of the literature teristics and institutional factors on wages may be larger in less developed countries than presents a lower level of human capital. On the contrary, the impact of industry characmay have lower dispersion of wages than developed countries because their labor force feature of the labor market and not a transitory phenomenon due to economic shocks These findings are contradictory with the hypothesis that less developed countries

Stability of the Wage Structure

ing collective bargaining and a substantial trade reform as part of a liberalization process A number of studies have found the wage structure stable over time? Several economic and institutional factors such as galloping inflation, a change in the legislation rullead us to expect changes in the pattern of the wage structure during the priod of study.

remained relatively stable between 1981 and 1987, even though the correlations increasdrastically after 1983. The correlations are 0.882 between 1981 and 1987, 0.822 The correlation analysis in Table 1 shows that the pattern of wage differentials has

WAGE DISPERSION AND CORRELATIONS OF WAGE DIFFERENTIALS 1968-87

Year	Standard Deviation	Correlation with 1987
	4-Digit International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC)	ication (ISIC)
1987	0.351	1.000
	(70)	(70)
1986	0.352	0.990
1085	(66)	(66)
	(67)	(66)
1984	0.353	0.968
	(67)	(66)
1983	0.332	0.915
	(66)	(65)
1982	0.308	0.822
	(67)	(65)
1861	0.319	0.882
	(65)	(61)
1978	0.246	0.970
	(25)	(25)
1900	(21)	na

Number of industries in parentheses

The wage dispersions corresponding to 1968 and 1978 are calculated on 2-digit and 3-digit ISIC basis respectively.

Coefficients are weighted by 1987 employment.

Sources: Based on data taken from manufacturing census and surveys.

between 1982 and 1987, 0.968 between 1984 and 1987 and between 1985 and 1987. Finally, the correlation between 1987 and 1987 is 0.978

tern rather than being the consequence of random shocks. The wage structure seems to converge after 1983 to 1987 values. This change may partially be explained by the reincorrelations over time. This suggests that the wage differentials have an underlying patstatement of the bargaining power held by labor organizations. The most important feature of the wage structure is the absence of a decline in the

International Comparisons of the Industry Wage Structure

in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. Previous studies have found a high correlation of the not controlled for establishment size and labor characteristics. Here we attempt to actween the U.S. and other countries are above 0.6 in 1982. However, these studies have in wages, especially among developed countries. In fact, 11 of the 13 correlations bewage structure across countries. Krueger and Summers (1987) find a very high correlation In this section we address the issue of whether the structure of wages is similar

We use manufacturing censuses for Argentina (1974), Chile (1979) and Uruguay (1978) in the three-digit ISIC code to examine their wage structure. The wage differentials count for the first of these problems. are calculated without controlling for human capital variables

correlations are 0.86 between Uruguay and Argentina, 0.77 between Uruguay and Chile. guay in Table 2 shows a very similar wage structure among the countries. The overall and 0.84 between Argentina and Chile. The correlation analysis of the industry wage structure in Argentina, Chile and Uru-

CORRELATIONS OF WAGE DIFFERENTIALS BY ESTABLISHMENT SIZE URUGUAY (1978), CHILE (1979) AND ARGENTINA (1974) TABLE 2

ALL WORKERS

Chile	Uruguay			Country
All Sizes 5.9 10-50 50+	2.4 5.9 10.19 20.49 50+	All Sizes	Size	
0.84 0.72 0.78 0.63	-0.20 0.49 0.61 0.57 0.86	0.86	All	3
0.65 0.85 0.20 0.53	-0.32 -0.42 0.62 0.60 0.41	0.30	1-5	2
0.79 0.91 0.41 0.63	-0.26 -0.14 0.76 0.73 0.63	0.55	6-10	Argentina
0.82 0.81 0.62 0.68	0.33 0.33 0.80 0.78 0.82	0.79	11-25	
0.69 0.66 0.58 0.79	0.58 0.79 0.72 0.71	0.74	26-50	
0.85 0.70 0.87 0.55	0.36	0.87	50+	
0.77 0.62 0.83 0.46		ţ	£	
-0.14 -0.31 0.09 0.63			2-4	
0.07 0.39 0.27			5-9	Urugu
0.50 0.63 0.20 0.70			10-19	ау
0.43 0.55 0.19 0.60			20-49	,
0.71 0.71 0.86			50+	;

Notes: Correlations are weighted by Uruguayan employment. Based on 26 comparables 3-digit ISIC

Sources: Censo Nacional Económico Industrial 1974 (Argentina); Censo Manufacturero 1978 (Uruguay); Censo Manufacturero 1979 (Chile).

Since the wage differentials do not control for labor quality, the high correlations may be explained by similar human capital of the workers across industries, and the high correlations only reflect the need for highly qualified workers in certain industries across countries. Unfortunately, we are unable to test this hypothesis because of the aggregate nature of the data. However, Lang, Márquez and Romaguera (1988) give evidence on this issue. They show that the correlations between Venezuela and Chile and between Venezuela and the U.S. are still high even after controlling for labor quality variables. Therefore, the high correlations are not likely to reflect the need for more qualified workers in certain industries.

Alternatively, the high correlations may be explained by the tendency of large establishments to pay higher wages. Our results show that the correlations are partially due to the establishment size effect. The correlation coefficients for establishments with over 50 workers are 0.89 between Uruguay and Argentina, 0.55 between Chile and Argentina and 0.46 between Uruguay and Chile. The correlations are still high for medium size establishments between Uruguay and Argentina, but considerably lower between Uruguay and Chile. This result may be explained by the different establishment size categories defined by the two countries; while Uruguay has two medium size categories, 10.19 and 20.49 workers, Chile only shows one category, 10.50 workers. Finally, the correlations for small establishments are high between Argentina and Chile and negative in all other cases.

As a conclusion, the international correlations are partially explained by the establishment size effect. The correlations controlling for size categories are lower than the overall correlations. It is striking that the correlations for the smallest size categories are positive only between Argentina and Chile and negative in the remaining cases.

. The Wage Structure by Establishment Size

Previous studies have generally found moderate to large correlation among different establishment sizes. Krueger and Summers (1987) reported a correlation of 0.78 between firms employing 1-99 workers and more than 1,000 workers for the U.S. manufacturing sector. Romaguera (1989) found a relatively high correlation between large and medium size establishments and between medium and small size establishments, but a lower correlation between small and large establishments in the Chilean manufacturing sector.

Our results in Table 3 show that establishment size does have a positive impact on wages: the average wage in the industry increases as size increases. In fact, an average worker receives a salary more than twice as high in a firm employing 50 or more workers than in one employing only 24 workers. This situation reveals the large difference in salary prevailing between the modern sector and the rest of the economy. The analysis also reveals a similar wage dispersion across different sizes. All establishment sizes present similar variability in the wage paid to employees. This suggests some degree of segmentation even within similar groups of industries. Note also that high correlations between white and blue collar wages are shown in large establishment sizes. The wage structure across occupations presents more similarities in large establishments.

Table 4 shows correlations across occupations by establishment size. The results are somewhat striking. Production blue collar workers and other workers show a very different pattern of correlations. While the former group of workers shows negative to very low correlations across size, the latter shows very strong correlations across sizes. These results are suggestive of a more segment labor market for blue collar workers in small establishments than for the rest of workers.

TABLE 3

AVERAGE WAGE AND ESTABLISHMENT SIZE

		Ę	Establishment Size		
	24	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+
All Workers	!				16 (13
Average Wage Standard Deviation No Industries	6.891 0.273 (26)	8.54 0.226 (26)	10.248 0.218 (27)	12.867 0.327 (26)	0.234 (25)
Blue Collar			;	466	12 425
Average Wage Standard Deviation No Industries	6.155 0.28 (26)	7.974 0.235 (27)	0.229 (25)	0.247 (26)	0.186 (24)
Other				; ;	72 / 17
Average Wage Standard Deviation No Industries	12.788 0.453 (22)	12.335 0.355 (25)	16.347 0.301 (25)	0.263 (26)	0.182 (23)

Notes: Standard deviations and are weighted by total employment.

Occupational groups are: Blue collar workers involved in the production process and other workers.

Number of industries in parenthesis. Results are based on data taken from the 1978 manufacturing census. Average wage is measured in 1978 local currency.

Source: Censo Manufacturero 1978.

The Wage Structure across Occupations

One of the most important findings of the recent studies of wage structure is the high correlation of differentials across occupations. In this section we explore the correlation between blue and white collar workers from 1981 to 1986. The results in Table 5 show a very high and increasing pattern of correlations between white and blue collar workers. The correlations are 0.565 in 1981, 0.672 in 1982, 0.619 in 1983, 0.692 in workers. The correlations are 0.565 in 1986. They reflect tendency to a more similar wage 1984, 0.670 in 1985 and 0.752 in 1986. They reflect tendency to a more similar wage structure in the more recent years. This tendency might have been due to the reestablishment in 1985 of collective bargaining. We conjecture that through collective bargaining blue collar workers might have pressed for wage adjustments that put theirs closer

to white collar wages.

Finally, there is a substantial amount of dispersion in wages across occupations, Finally, there is a substantial amount of dispersion in wages across occupations, and this has increased slightly over time. The standard deviations for white and blue and this has increased slightly over time. The standard deviations for white and blue collar workers are 0.241 and 0.283 respectively in 1981, 0.267 and 0.279 in 1982, 0.282 collar workers are 0.287 in 1984, 0.334 and 0.289 in 1985 and 0.338 and and 0.290 in 1986. The dispersion has reversed over the years. Blue collar workers show 0.303 in 1986. The dispersion has reversed over the years. Blue collar workers after that greater dispersion until 1983 and lower dispersion than white collar workers after that

MODELS OF WAGE DETERMINATION

TABLE 4

CORRELATIONS OF WAGE DIFFERENTIALS ACROSS ESTABLISHMENT SIZE

Establishment Size		Blue Collar Workers	SIS		
	2-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+
2-4	1.000				
5.9	-0.436	1.000			
10-19	-0.244	0.229	1.000		
20-49	-0.222	0.203	0.868	1.000	
50+	-0.127	0.079	-0.135	0.289	1.000
Establishment Size		Other Workers			
	2-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+
2-4	1.000				
5-9	0.849	1.000			
10-19	0.671	0.893	1.000		
20-49	0.372	0.322	0.296	1.000	
50+	0.566	0.660	0.616	0.258	1.000

Notes: Occupational groups are: Blue collar workers involved in the production process and other workers. Correlations are weighted by total employment.

Results are based on 22 3-digit ISIC industries.

Current Comes Manufacturers 1979

Source: Censo Manufacturero, 1978.

WAGE STRUCTURE ACROSS OCCURATION

	WAGE ST	WAGE STRUCTURE ACROSS OCCUPATIONS	CROSS OCCU	PATIONS		
Workers			Years	BIS		
	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Correlation between white and blue collar						
Workers	0.565	0.672	0.619	0.692	0.67	0.752
No Industries	(65)	(67)	(66)	(67)	(67)	(66)
All						
Standard Deviation	0.319	0.308	0.332	0.353	0.341	0.352
No Industries	(65)	(67)	(66)	(67)	(67)	(66)
White Collar						
Standard Deviation	0.241	0.257	0.282	0.356	0.334	0.338
No Industries	(65)	(67)	(66)	(67)	(67)	(66)
Blue Collar	})				
Standard Deviation	0.283	0.279	0.290	0.287	0.289	0.304
No Industries	(63)	60	(66)	(6)	(67)	66)

Notes: Standard deviations and correlations are weighted by total employment.

Occupational groups are: Blue collar workers involved in the production process and other workers.

Source: Censo Manufacturero, 1978.

As stated before, a high correlation across occupations is considered one of the most important findings of the literature on wage differentials. Similar pattern of correlations across occupations have been found in different countries showing different economic and institutional contexts. This finding does not support the compensating differentials or unobserved skill differences for the existence of wage differentials, but it differentials existence of firms paying high wages across occupations. Our results in this suggests the existence of firms paying high wages across occupations.

IV. Correlations of Industry Characteristics

Section III has shown the existence of non-competitive features in Uruguayan manufacturing. Wage differentials exist across industries, they persist over time and they manufacturing. Wage differentials exist across industries, they persist over time and they are positively correlated across establishment sizes and occupations. This evidence suggests a pattern of low—and high—wage industries, where all workers are lower or higher paid a pattern of low—and high—wage industries. We already identified establishment than similarly qualified workers in other industries. We already identified establishment size as an industry characteristics positively associated with the wage paid in the industry. In this section we take a deeper look at other industry characteristics associated with high—or low—paying industries.

Empirical Evidence on the effect of Wages of Industry Characteristics

There are a number of studies that examine the attributes of high and low-paying industries¹¹. The main variables used in these studies are the extent of unionism, a measure of product market power, usually a concentration ratio or profit rate, plant and firm of product market power, usually a concentration ratio or profit rate, plant and firm of product market power, usually a concentration ratio or profit rate, plant and firm of product market power, usually a concentration ratio or profit rate, plant and firm of product market power.

evidence and its implications for theory in this section.

The extent of union affiliation has been found positively correlated with wages of both union and nonunion workers. However, the estimates seem to be sensitive to the model specification and data set used in the estimation. These findings have some theoretical implications since the union threat model states that firms would set wages of nonunion workers high enough to prevent their unionization. Factors such as monopoly rents or low costs of collective organization will facilitate the high wages.

Product market power measures are intended to detect the ability of the firm to pay. No strong results about the impact of this variable on wages have been found in the past. No strong results about the impact of this variable on wages have been found in the past. Some studies present problems in measuring the concentration or profit rate and others. Some studies present results when labor quality controls are included. Theoretical do not find significant results when labor quality controls are included. Theoretical models, however, give different explanations for a positive relationship between product market power variables and wages. A complementary between capital and unobserved market power variables and wages. A complementary between capital and unobserved market power variables and wages. This fair that worker productivity is related to a perception of fair wages by workers. This fair wage is given by the ability to pay of each firm.

A positive correlation between wages and firm or plant size has generally been a positive correlation between wages and firm of this variable can be justified by reported in the empirical literature. The inclusion of this variable can be justified by reported models of wage determination. For example, the shirking model predicts that several models of wages to avoid shirking by workers. Shapiro and Stiglitz (1984) firms will pay higher wages to avoid shirking by workers. Shapiro and Stiglitz (1984) gright wages will arise where monitoring is costly. For empirical purposes argue that higher wages will arise where monitoring is costly. For empirical purposes argue that higher wages will arise organizations. This variable has generally costly monitoring has been assumed in large organizations. This variable has generally been found positively correlated with wages within industries. However, it does not explain inter-industrial wage differentials.

substitute capital for labor. On theoretical grounds, certain efficiency wage models Finally, capital intensity has been reported to have a positive relationship with industry wages. But it has been questioned whether capital intensive industries do pay tend to pay higher wages. This argument is similar to that put forward above to explain predict that capital intensive firms face large losses if productivity decliness so they the relationship between wages and firm size. high wages or if wages in certain regions or for certain groups of workers lead firms to

a problem to isolate the effects of individual characteristics on wages. characteristics on wages are not uniform across industries and multicolinearity represents are quite sensitive to the specification and to the sample analyzed. The effects of industry As a concluding comment, we would like to point out that results of past studies

Regression Analysis

of specifications for six consecutive years, from 1981 to 1986 in order to find variables industry characteristics on wages. To deal with this problem we estimate a large number between industry characteristics makes it difficult to isolate the effects of individual sample and to the particular specification of the equation. In particular, multicolinearity that perform consistently. The regression results reported in past studies seem to be sensitive to the specific

measure of export intensity (exports over total sales), two measures of ability to pay (profits over total sales and a four-firm concentration ratio, available only for 1981)¹³ industry, available only for 1986). The sample sizes were as follows: 50 industries for 1981, 67 industries for 1982, 1984 and 1985, 66 industries for 1983 and 44 industries and a measure of labor market characteristic (the percentage of union affiliation in the per worker), two measures of industry size (total employment and total sales), one rage hours of work by blue collar workers), a measure of capital intensity (electricity We have data on two worker characteristics (percent of blue collar workers and ave

analysis. The variables are defined at the industry level rather than at the firm level making it more difficult to extract definitive conclusions for theory. Before going to the results, a word of caution must be said about the regression

columns show the number of times that the coefficient turned out positive, and the last Table 6 shows a summary of the results of regressing the log of industry average wage for white and blue collar workers respectively. The first column corresponds to the variable was found significant at 5%. types of workers. The numbers in parentheses correspond to the number of times the two columns indicate the number of times the variable turned out negative for both total number of times that the variable is included in all six years, the second and third

much better in regressions for blue collar wage than in regressions for white collar wage. For blue collar workers, it turned out significant 90% of the time agains only 9% for collar workers and 17% for white collar workers. better results for blue collar workers. In this case the significance rate is 40% for blue white collar workers 14. In turn, average hours worked by blue collar workers, also showed The first worker characteristic variable, percentage of blue collar workers, performed

ed out significant 53% of the time against only 23% in blue collar wage regressions This performed better for white collar workers than for blue collar workers. Here, it turn Opposite results are obtained for the capital intensity variable, electricity per worker

expected it to turn out positive but it came up more frequently negative, and it was Among size measures, the employment variable does not present good results. We

SUMMARY OF REGRESSION RESULTS DEPENDENT VARIABLE: AVERAGE WAGES

TABLE 6

	DEFENDENT VANAGOUS.	William Company			
	No. included	Positive White Collar Blue Collar	ive Blue Collar	Negative White Collar Blue Collar	tive Blue Collar
Percent Blue Collar	73	7 (0)	0 (0) 70 (28)	66 (6) 49 (0)	73 (66) 3 (0)
Hours worked Blue Collar	105	105 (56)	99 (24)	0(0)	5 6 (9)
Electricity per worker	65	16 (4)	13 (0)	49 (53)	(0) 0
Employment	63	63 (53)	63 (53)	3,0	53 (16)
Exports/Total Sales	57 98	32 (3) 98 (40)	4 (0) 94 (22)	0(0)	4 (0)
Four-Firm Concentration	18	18 (0) 18 (0)	18 (4) 16 (11)	0 (0) 0 (0)	0 (O) (O)
% industry Unionization	;				

Notes: Summary of the accumulated regression results from 1981 to 1986. Number in parenthesis shows significance at 5%. Based on 4-digit ISIC industries. See text for sample size.

wage-size found at the plant level in section 4. We conjecture that this may be explained mostly significant when negative. This result is contradictory with the relationship good results only for blue collar workers; the rate of significance was 84% in this case. by the aggregation problem mentioned above. On the other hand, total sales presented For white collar workers the variable was only significant when negative.

of significance, while for blue collar workers exports over sales almost always turned out workers, this variable was only positive half of the time and it showed a very low level The results for the variable exports over sales are not as expected. For white collar

For ability to pay measures, profits over sales performed much better than the four-firm concentration ratio. The significance rate was 41% for white collar workers and only 23% for blue collar workers. The four-firm concentration ratio was always positive, but negative and the rate of significance was, again, negligible.

only significant for blue collar workers (18%). Finally, our labor market characteristic, the percentage of industry union affiliation,

positive but never significant. This result was to some extent expected, was only significant for blue collar workers, 69%. For white collar workers, it was always blue collar workers are more likely to be affiliated with union organizations' since usually

stated above, they have some implications for the efficiency wage models presented in effect on worker morale that, in turn, affects productivity. The positive correlation beof rent-sharing models. The fact that firms share profits with employees has a positive Section II. The positive correlation between ability to pay measures and wages is suggestive models. Certain efficiency wage models predict that capital intensive firms face large worker, turned out significant mostly for white collar workers is problematic for many to avoid shirking. Finally, the facto that our capital intensity variable, electricity per is costly in large establishments, then firms with large establishments pay higher wages tween sales and wages may be suggestive of shirking models. If we argue that monitoring losses if productivity declines, so they pay higher wages to avoid a slowdown in pro-Even though we recommend to take these results cautiously given the problems

ج. Conclusions and implications for Theory

(1987, 1988), Krueger and Summers (1987, 1988) and Leonard (1988) have showed show strong similarities to those of past studies. Dickens and Katz (1987a, b), Groshen they are similar across occupations and countries. that wage differentials have been remarkably stable over long periods of time; and that Despite the sharp contrast between the Uruguayan and U.S. economies, our results

period characterized by sweeping economic and political changes. The correlations of the wage structure do not diminish over time, reflecting an underlying pattern of differentials. The wage differentials show a change around 1984; after that year the correlations increased sharply. This change may be explained by the economic and institutional reforms implemented during the period of study. than those reported for the U.S. economy. The differentials persist over a twenty-year We find that wage differentials are substantial in Uruguayan manufacturing and larger

establishments, but lower correlations are found between small and large sizes. This fact may be explained by differences in technology between large and small size establish between large and medium size establishments and between medium and small size The analysis of correlations across establishment sizes shows higher correlations

explained by transitory disequilibria, rather they reflect an underlying pattern of dif-ferentials with changes around 1984, probably explained by the economic and institu-These results seem to support efficiency wage explanations for the existence of wage differentials. The fact that wage differentials persist over time suggests that they are not tional changes already described.

technology greatly differs between small and large establishments. establishment sizes are low and sometimes negative. An explanation for this fact is that correlations increase with establishments size. Correlations between small and larger the overall correlations are higher than the correlations within each size category, and the Argentina. The correlations are partially explained by the establishment-size effect since We also found a high correlation among the wage structures of Uruguay, Chile and

medium and small size firms, but lower correlations are found between small and large sizes. It shows higher correlations between large and medium size firms and between The same explanation applies to the analysis of correlations across establishment

are partially explained by the establishment size effect. between white and blue collar workers are strongly correlated. However, the correlations As predicted by sociological or rent-sharing models, we find that wage differentials

shirking models. This assumes that the cost of monitoring workers increases with size productivity. Similarly, the positive correlation between sales and wages is suggestive of that firms share profits with employees to improve worker morale that, in turn, affects to pay variables are positively correlated to average wages. Rent-sharing models argue efficiency wage theories. In particular, we find support for rent-sharing models, as ability then large establishments tend to pay higher wages to avoid shirking Finally, the results of the estimations of the wage equations are also suggestive o

Notes:

- More details on the economic reforms implemented during the period of study are found Hanson and De Melo (1983, 1985) and Ramos (1986).
- Shapiro and Stiglitz (1984).
- ພຸມ Oi (1983).
- See for example Bulow and Summers (1986).
- However, this low correlation for Chile may be driven by the small sample used in the analysis. Table A1 in the Appendix show wage differentials for each industry as the difference between the log of wage per capita in each industry and the employment-weighted average wage
- All correlations of wage differentials are calculated on 4-digit ISIC basis, except for the correlation between 1978 and 1987 which is calculated on a 3-digit ISIC basis. Slichter (1950) and Krueger and Summers (1987).
- Data on the Chilean manufacturing census was obtained from Romaguera (1989). Dickens and Katz (1987b), Groshen (1987) and Krueger and Summers (1987).
- = = .
- Dickens and Katz (1987a) survey that literature.
- 1 Lewis (1983, 1986) reviews the union effect on wages.
- at 5% of confidence level over the number of times it turned out with the expected sign. The significance rate corresponds to the number of times that the variable turned out significant
- may be driven by the small sample size. Dickens and Katz (1987a) also report a somewhat ambiguous relationship between wages and union affiliation: different results are obtained with different samples and regression specifications. The results of the last two variables, the concentration ratio and the extent of union affiliation,

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Appendix

TABLE A.1 WAGE DIFFERENTIALS IN MANUFACTURING FOUR-DIGIT ISIC INDUSTRIES

3812 3813	1186	3710	36 92 36 99	3620 3691	3610	3560	3551	3530	36,26	3523	3521	3512	3511	3420	3419	747.6	341	3320	3319	3312	3	3240	3233	3231	3219	3215	3214	3212	3211	3140	1 31 33 1 3 4 5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	3132	3131	3121		3119	3117	3116	3115	3113	3111 3112	2	ē
Manufacture of furniture and fixtures primarily of metal Manufacture of structural metal products	Reneral hardware	Iron and steel basic industries Non-ferrous metal basic industries	Manufacture of cement, lime and placter Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products nec	Manufacture of grass and glass products Manufacture of structural clay products	Manufacture of pottery, china and earthenware	Manufacture of plastic products nec	Tyre and tube industries	Petroleum refineries	cosmetics and other touer preparations Manufacture of chemical products nec	Manufacture of soap and cleaning preparations,	Manufacture of paints, varnishes and lacquers Manufacture of drugs and medicines	Manufacture of fertilizers and pesticides	Manufacture of basic industrials chemicals	Printing, publishing and allied industries	Manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard	and paperboard	Manufacture of purp, paper and boxes of paper	Manufacture of furniture and fixtures	Manufacture of wood and cork products nec	Manufacture of wooden and cane containers	moulded rubber or plastic footwear	Manufacture of footwear, except vulcanized or	Manufacture of products of leatner and leatner substitutes	Tanneries and leather finishing	Manufacture of wearing apparel	Cordage, rope and twine industries	Manufacture of carpets and rugs	Manufacture of made-up textue goods	Spinning, weaving and finishing textiles	Tobacco manufactures	Malt inquors and mait Soft drinks and carbonated water industries	Wine industries	Distilling, rectifying and blending spirits	Manufacture of prepared animal feeds	sugar confectionery	Manufacture of cocoa, chocolate and	Manufacture of bakery products Sugar factories and refineries	Grain mill products	Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats	Canning and preserving of Ituns and regeracies Canning and preserving and processing of figh	Slaughtering, preparing and preserving meat Manufacture of dairy products		Industry
-0.190 0.020	0.082	-0.074 -0.087		0.195	-0.076	0.020	0.434	0.361	0.323		0.690	0.692	0.431	0.162	0.060	-0.001	0.13.0	-0.225	-0.068	-0.798	078	:	-0.416	-0.075	-0.314	-0.436	-0.477	-0.67	-0.055	0.813	0.278	881.0	0.348	0.164	-0.184	,	0.61.0	0.071	0.210	0.230	0.327		1981
-0.079 0.018	-0.064	0.112 -0.002	0.318 0.203	0.263	0.039	0.011	0.344	0.391	0.445	2	0.724	0.589	0.324	0.250	0 076	-0.282	0.10	-0.359	-0.419	0.801	-0.502		-0.337	-0.009	-0.318	0.274	-0.419	-0.151	-0.189	0.865	0.326	0.192	0.215	-0.115	0.086		0.192	0.076	0.192	-0.109	0.159		1982
-0.153 -0.026	0.059	0.158 -0.075	0.281 0.083	0.170	0.261	-0.057	0.368	0.379	0.393	*	0.839	0.713	0.378	0.176	0.081	-0.167	0,140	-0.291	-0.410	n 2	-0.522	:	-0.101	-0.011	-0.392	0.437	-0.466	0.02	-0.081	0.900	0.465	-0.032	0.253	0.084	0.159		0.253	0.202	0.117	0.657	0.218		1983
-0.339 -0.292	0.072	0.20S -0.410	-0.255 -0.113	0.017	0.139	-0.098	207	0.301	0.347	2	0.845	0.801	0.455	0.096	0 757	-0.056	0.377	-0.530	-0.574	72	-0.484		-0.344	0.038	-0.370	0.435	0.378	0.113	0.116	1.127	0.512	0.096	0.176	-0.175	0.164		0.252	0.188	0.036	-0.126	0.313		1984
-0.314 -0.358	-0.099	0.185 -0.159	0.367 -0.092	-0.56	0.198	-0.114	0.361	0.468	0.321	2	0.840	0.655	0.457	0.056	181	-0.200	200.0	-0.506	-0.672	E	-0.530		-0.159	0.132	-0.351	-0.326	-0.351	0.206	0.052	0.823	0.518	-0.021	0.332	-0.174	0.112		0.345	0.125	0.083	-0.531	0.362		1985
-0.377 -0.427	-0.154	0.128 -0.197	0.288	-0.140	0.145	-0.122	0.533	0.337	0,310		0.773	0.545	0.476	0.054	0.224	-0,187	0.50	-0.576	-1.173	# £	-0.591		-0.262	0.160	-0.354	0.318	-0.562	-0.599	0,100	0.756	0.498	-0.018	0.235	-0.162	0.074		0.288	0.040	0.054	-0.507	0.356		1986
-0.317 -0.323	-0.130	0.172 -0.126	0.286 -0.0 51	-0.169	0.081	-0.093	0.620	0.307	0.340		0.724	0.540	0.486	0.100	201	-0.115	0.50	-0.365	-1.170	2	-0.592		-0.364	0.113	-0.335	-0.210	-0.621	0.953	0.095	0.735	0.589	0.003	0.217	-0.213	0.022		0.362	810.0	0.133	0.499	0.323		1987

TABLE A.1 (End) WAGE DIFFERENTIALS IN MANUFACTURING FOUR-DIGIT ISIC INDUSTRIES

	3903 2903	2001	3844	3843	3839	3833	3832		3825	3824 N	3823 h	3822 N	3819 M	ISIC
with lead searched deviations	Manufacture of sporting and athletic goods Manufacturing industries nec	measuring and controlling equipment, nec	Manufacture of professional and scientific,	supplies nec Manufacture of motor vehicles	Manufacture of electrical apparatus and	Manufacture of electrical appliances and housewares	Manufacture of radio, TV and	Manufacture of electrical industrial machinery	Manufacture of office, computing and accounting machinery Machinery and equipment except electrical nec	macunery Manufacture of special industrial machinery and consistent	Manufacture of metal and wood working	Manufacture of agricultural machinery	Manufacture of fabricated metal products except machinery and equipment nec	Industry
0.319	-1.076 -0.267	-0.835	ì	0.347	0.072	0.194	-0.105	0.322	ла 0.146	0.327	0.131	TJA	0.075	1981
0.308	-0.189	-0.223		0.350	0.240	0.189	0.046	0.307	ns 0.002	0.265	na	0.066	0.087	1982
0.332	-0.269	-0.704	3	0.544	0.163	0.120	-0.077	0.288	0.002	0.118	E	-0.008	0.028	1983
0.353	-0.331	-0.543	201	0.559 -0.171	0.145	0.134	0.255	0.181	0.769	0.130	12	-0.259	-0.014	1984
	-0.268	-0.785	-0.510	-0.218	0.080	0.176	0.141	0.252	0.659 -0.050	0.147	na a	-0.116	0.007	1985
0.341	808	, 0, ,					- 1			5		ļ	b	۱.
0.341 0.352			-0.414	-0.251	0.039	0.166	-0,103	0.206	0.552 0.157	-0.048	굺	-0.203	-0.026	1986

Note: nec.: not elsewhere classified.