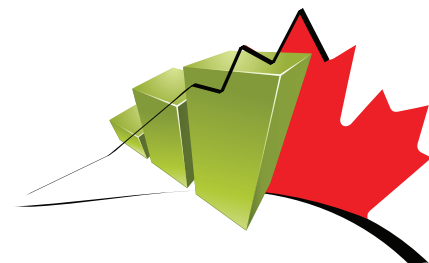


Economic and Social Reports

The relative earnings of individuals in designated visible minority categories in Canada across four workplace sectors



by Theresa Qiu and Grant Schellenberg

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Abstract

Using data from the 2016 Census and administrative sources, this study estimates the differences in weekly earnings received by workers in designated visible minority and White categories, as defined by the *Employment Equity Act*, employed in four broad sectors of the Canadian workforce. Of central interest is whether differences in weekly earnings between these categories were larger in small and medium commercial enterprises than they were in large commercial enterprises and in organizations and enterprises in the non-commercial sector. In the small commercial firm sector, the weekly earnings of men in seven of the nine designated visible minority categories were significantly lower than those of White men, net of sociodemographic and employment characteristics. In the medium commercial firm sector, weekly earnings of men in five of the nine categories were significantly lower than that of White men, while in the large commercial firm sector, weekly earnings were lower in four of the nine categories. In all instances, the magnitude of the difference was largest among Black men. Among women, significantly lower weekly earnings relative to White women were consistently observed only among Black women. In the non-commercial sector, the weekly earnings of men and women in designated visible minority categories were either higher than, or not significantly different from, those of White men and women.

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Introduction

Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy highlights the importance of data and evidence as tools for identifying and addressing inequalities. In a previous paper requested and financially supported by Canadian Heritage, the weekly earnings received by workers across designated visible minority and White categories, as defined in the *Employment Equity Act*, were estimated using data from the 2016 Census (Qiu & Schellenberg, 2022). That paper found that, after taking into account sociodemographic and employment characteristics, the weekly earnings of men in 4 of 10 designated visible minority categories were significantly lower than those of White men, with the largest differences observed among Black and Latin American men. In contrast, women in most designated visible minority categories had earnings that were either higher than or not statistically different than the earnings of their White counterparts.

This paper extends the analysis by looking more closely at differences in weekly earnings among individuals employed in four broad sectors of the Canadian workforce. These include large commercial sector firms, medium commercial sector firms and small commercial sector firms, as well as firms and organizations of all sizes in the non-commercial sector, which includes health, education, social services and public administration. Of central interest is whether differences in weekly earnings between individuals in designated visible minority and White categories vary within these sectors.

The relationships between organizational characteristics and the employment outcomes of disadvantaged groups, including racialized communities, has long been a topic of research inquiry (see review in Dobbin et al., 2015). The role that firm size plays in this stem from several considerations. The use of formalized human resources management practices is more prevalent in large, complex organizations than in small ones, and larger firms typically expend more resources on human resources (HR) recruitment, formalized HR processes and professional HR staff (Banerjee et al., 2018). Unionization is also more prevalent in larger than smaller firms, with terms of employment negotiated through collective bargaining and maintained through formal processes (e.g., grievance systems).¹ Larger firms may also be more experienced with and sensitive to issues of diversity and equity, assuming that workplace diversity increases with organizational size or that concerns about public image and public scrutiny are more prevalent among larger than smaller firms.

These are some of the factors that motivate Hou and Coulombe's (2010) study of the relative earnings of Canadian workers in designated visible minority categories employed in the public and private sectors. Those in the public sector are expected to fare better, given requirements of employment equity regulations and policies, sensitivity of the public sector to its "...image as a non-discriminating employer," high rates of unionization and other factors (p. 30). Using 2006 Census data, Hou and Coulombe (2010) find that "...visible minorities and Whites receive similar pay for similar jobs in the public sector. By contrast, in the private sector visible minority men earn significantly less than observationally comparable Whites" (p. 29).

Variation in employment outcomes across firm size is documented by Banerjee et al. (2018). Using evidence from the discrimination audit study by Oreopoulos (2011), they examined discrimination in hiring decisions across larger and smaller firms in Canada and found:

...substantial organization size differences in discrimination against skilled applicants with Asian (Chinese, Indian, or Pakistani) names in the decision to call for an interview. In organizations with more than 500 employees, Asian-named applicants are 20 percent less likely to receive a callback; in smaller organizations, the disadvantage is nearly 40 percent. (p. 1)

1. In 2020, 53.4% of employees in firms with 500 or more employees were unionized, compared with 13.9% of those in firms with fewer than 20 employees. (Statistics Canada, 2021b.)

This current study adds to the Canadian research literature on the employment outcomes of individuals in designated visible minority categories. Information from administrative data sources is appended to the 2016 Census, and employed individuals are sorted into workplace sectors, defined in terms of industry and enterprise size. Weekly earnings differences within sectors are then estimated.

Data and methods

Data and sample selection

This study uses data from the 2016 Census file that was augmented with information on firm size, industry and union status drawn from the T4 Statement of Remuneration file and the Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program (LEAP). The linkage rate between 2016 Census respondents meeting the study selection criteria (see below) and the T4-LEAP file was 97.8% among men and 98.2% among women, meaning that the linkage process introduced little sample loss or selection bias.

The analysis is restricted to individuals who were born in Canada, were aged 25 to 44 at the time of the 2016 Census, had at least one week of paid employment and \$500 in earnings in 2015, and were not self-employed in that year. Restricting the analysis to individuals born in Canada removes immigration-related factors associated with earnings, such as foreign credential recognition, foreign work experience and knowledge of official languages. Given that far larger shares of individuals in designated visible minority categories than the White category are immigrants, this provides a more even basis for comparison. Similarly, there are large differences in the age profiles of Canadian-born individuals in designated visible minority and White categories (Qiu & Schellenberg, 2022) and restricting the study population to individuals aged 25 to 44 reduces the confounding effects of this. Weeks of employment and minimum earnings criteria are imposed to limit the study to earnings conditional on employment, while self-employed individuals are excluded to avoid earnings-related issues pertaining to business operations, accounting conventions and taxation of business income. In addition to these selection criteria, those who responded “First Nation”, “Métis” and/or “Inuit” to the census question on the Indigenous group are excluded from this analysis. Specific histories and circumstances pertaining to Indigenous people and established working relationships between Statistics Canada and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, and national Indigenous organizations necessitate a separate analysis. Overall, the sample for the study population comprised approximately 538,000 men and 515,000 women.

Dependent variable

The outcome of interest in this study is the difference in average weekly earnings received by individuals in designated visible minority and White categories. Average weekly earnings are calculated as total wages and salaries received in 2015 divided by the number of weeks worked during that year. Both variables are from the 2016 Census. The measurement of earnings on a weekly basis, combined with a mostly full-time or part-time employment variable accounts for some, but not all, variation in labour supply. A limitation of the average weekly earnings measure is that it does not capture earnings differences attributable to differential access to full-year employment that individuals in some designated visible minority categories may experience.

Independent variables

Industry and enterprise size variables were used to group the study population into one of four broad workplace sectors. Those employed in the non-commercial sector, defined as health care and social assistance (industry codes = 62), education services (industry codes = 61) and public administration (industry codes = 91), were distinguished from those in the commercial sector, defined as all other industries. The label “non-commercial sector” rather than “public sector” is used, recognizing that some enterprises in health and education are privately owned and operated. Individuals employed in the commercial sector were further subdivided into those working in small, medium or large business enterprises. Large enterprises were those with 500 or more employees, medium enterprises were those with 25 to 499 employees, and small enterprises were those with 1 to 24 employees. Individuals who had more than one job during the year were allocated to the sector of their job with the highest T4 earnings.

A set of socioeconomic control variables, including age, age-squared, educational attainment, knowledge of official languages, census family status, province of residence and census metropolitan area (CMA) of residence are included in the analysis. Sex is taken into account by running separate models for men and women, consistent with a Gender-based Analysis Plus approach. And a set of employment characteristics, including full-time or part-employment status, union status, occupation,² and industry,³ are also included. Overall, a broad set of characteristics capturing aspects of human capital, jobs and organizational contexts were taken into account.

Individuals in the study population were categorized on the basis of their response to the “designated visible minority question” on the 2016 Census. As stated in census documentation:

Visible minority refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the *Employment Equity Act* and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The *Employment Equity Act* defines visible minorities as ‘persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.’ Categories in the visible minority variable include South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean, Japanese, Visible minority, n.i.e. (‘n.i.e.’ means ‘not included elsewhere’), Multiple visible minorities and Not a visible minority. (Statistics Canada, 2017, p. 1).

Twelve response categories are provided for this question. These include

- White
- South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)
- Chinese
- Black
- Filipino
- Arab
- Latin American
- Southeast Asian (e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai)
- West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan)
- Korean
- Japanese

2. Occupational categories include management; professional; technical and paraprofessional; administration and administrative support; sales; personal and customer information services; industrial, construction and equipment operations; workers and labourers in transport and construction; nature resources, agriculture and related production occupations; occupations in manufacturing and utilities.

3. Industry categories include mining, oil and gas and utilities; construction; manufacturing; transportation, warehousing, wholesale trade, primary industries and administrative and support, waste management and remediation services; businesses services and consumer services.

- Other visible minorities.⁴

While the total sample for the study was quite large, disaggregation by sex, designated visible minority categories and workplace sectors yielded some small within-cell samples. This necessitated some aggregation of the 12 response categories above to increase within-cell sample sizes and strengthen statistical estimates. Individuals in the Arab and West Asian categories were combined into a single category for this reason, as were individuals in the Korean and Japanese categories. In this paper, the term “categories of interest” refers to the 10 categories used, including “White,” while the term “designated visible minority categories” refers to individuals in the 9 categories aside from White.

Looking across workplace sectors

An overview of the distributions of individuals across the four workplace sectors provides context for the analysis of weekly earnings. Among all men in the study population, the shares employed in the non-commercial sector ranged from 17% to 21% across most categories of interest. Among all women in the study population, over 40% worked in the non-commercial sector—a share twice that of men. In part, this reflects the large shares of women in health and education occupations.⁵ The shares of women employed in the non-commercial sector ranged from 37% to 45% across most categories of interest. Sociodemographic characteristics that may be associated with employment in the non-commercial sector, such as age and education, are not taken into account in Table 1.

4. Other visible minorities include visible minority not included elsewhere and multiple visible minority responses.

5. For example, women account for 79% of employed workers in health occupations, 67% of professional occupations in education services, and 62% of professional occupations in law and social, community and government services. (Statistics Canada, 2021a).

Table 1
Distribution of men and women in the study population across workplace sectors

	Non-commercial sector	Large commercial sector firms	Medium commercial sector firms	Small commercial sector firms	Total
	percent				
Men					
Total	17.5	32.0	29.9	20.6	100
White	17.4	31.3	30.2	21.1	100
South Asian	19.8	42.2	23.7	14.4	100
Chinese	19.9	41.6	24.5	14.0	100
Black	17.6	41.6	28.0	12.8	100
Filipino	21.0	41.8	25.8	11.4	100
Latin American	12.9	37.0	32.0	18.1	100
Southeast Asian	14.2	38.1	29.3	18.4	100
Arab/West Asian	17.7	37.4	25.3	19.6	100
Korean/Japanese	20.8	34.6	25.4	19.2	100
Other	17.7	39.2	28.3	14.8	100
Women					
Total	44.2	22.4	18.7	14.8	100
White	44.5	21.6	18.8	15.1	100
South Asian	44.3	29.8	15.9	10.0	100
Chinese	37.7	32.8	18.3	11.1	100
Black	41.6	32.1	17.2	9.1	100
Filipino	42.8	29.9	18.2	9.1	100
Latin American	34.1	33.8	19.4	12.7	100
Southeast Asian	30.1	32.5	22.5	14.9	100
Arab/West Asian	38.1	32.6	16.7	12.6	100
Korean/Japanese	40.2	26.6	19.9	13.3	100
Other	37.7	31.4	19.5	11.4	100

Notes: LEAP = Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program. Sample includes non-Indigenous persons aged 25 to 44, who were born in Canada, who had at least one week of paid employment and \$500 in earnings in 2015, and were not self-employed that year.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census and 2015 T4-LEAP file.

Turning to other workplace sectors, 82% of men and 56% of women in the study population were employed in the commercial sector. Larger shares of individuals in designated visible minority categories than White individuals were employed in the large commercial firm sector. Around 42% of South Asian, Chinese, Black and Filipino men worked in this sector, compared with 31% of White men (Table 1). Similarly, larger shares of women in most designated visible minority categories than in the White category worked in the large commercial firm sector. This could reflect various factors, such as greater opportunity for employment in large commercial firms in the large CMAs where most individuals in designated visible minority categories live, or the industrial composition of those CMAs. In addition, some studies suggest that individuals in disadvantaged groups may self-select towards larger firms with expectations that formalized HR processes will improve their chances for employment (Barbulescu & Bidwell, 2013). The focus of this analysis is not on the overrepresentation or underrepresentation of individuals in workplace sectors, but rather on their relative earnings within those sectors.

Selected compositional characteristics of individuals in the four workplace sectors are shown for men and women in Appendix Tables 1 and 2, respectively. A few highlights are noted here. Rates of unionization are highest in the non-commercial sector, ranging from 60% to 70% among men and women in most categories of interest. Unionization rates are generally similar among men and women in this sector. Unionization rates are lower in the commercial sector, declining successively across large, medium and small firms. Considering other characteristics, average ages are oldest among men and women in the non-commercial sector and youngest among those in small commercial sector firms. Educational attainment follows the same pattern, with university degrees most prevalent among

individuals in the non-commercial sector and least prevalent among those in the small commercial firm sector.

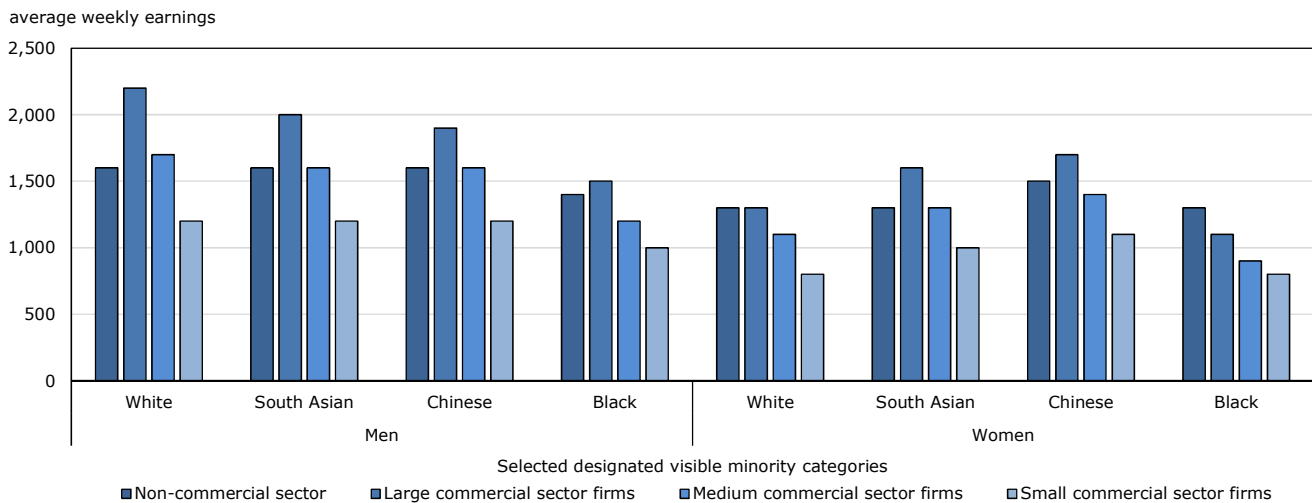
Results

Mean weekly earnings

The analysis now turns to the weekly earnings received by men and women in the study population. Unadjusted averages are presented first, followed by a multivariate analysis that takes into account individuals' sociodemographic and employment characteristics. Average weekly earnings within workplace sectors for men and women in designated visible minority and White categories are shown in Appendix Table 3; averages for White, South Asian, Chinese and Black individuals—the latter three being the numerically largest designated visible minority categories—are highlighted in Chart 1.

Among men, average weekly earnings were \$1,600 in the non-commercial sector, and somewhat higher in the large commercial firm sector at \$2,200. Within the commercial sectors, average weekly earnings declined successively across large, medium and small firms (Chart 1). Among women, average weekly earnings were \$1,300 in the non-commercial sector, somewhat higher in the large commercial firm sector, at \$1,300, and again successively lower in the medium and small commercial firm sectors.⁶ Average weekly earnings were lower among women than men in each of the four sectors.

Chart 1
Average weekly earnings of men and women in selected designated visible minority categories, by workplace sector



Notes: LEAP = Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program. Sample includes non-Indigenous persons aged 25 to 44, who were born in Canada, who had at least one week of paid employment and \$500 in earnings in 2015, and were not self-employed that year.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census and 2015 T4-LEAP file.

Looking more closely across designated visible minority categories, Chinese, Korean/Japanese, and South Asian men generally had average weekly earnings that were among the highest within workplace sectors, while Black, Filipino and Latin American men generally had average weekly earnings that were among the lowest (Appendix Table 3). Among men, the range from lowest to highest average earnings

6. Average weekly earnings are rounded to the nearest 100 in Appendix Table 3 and Chart 1.

across categories of interest was about \$400 in the non-commercial sector and about \$700 to \$1,000 in the small, medium and large commercial firm sectors.

Among women, Chinese, Korean/Japanese, and South Asian women had average weekly earnings that were generally among the highest within sectors, while Latin American, Southeast Asian and Black women had average weekly earnings that were generally the lowest. Among women, the range from lowest to highest average earnings across categories of interest was about \$300 in the non-commercial sector and about \$400 to \$700 in the small, medium and large commercial firm sectors.

Multivariate results

To refine these comparisons of weekly earnings, a set of multivariate regression models was run for men and women in each of the four workplace sectors. The natural log of weekly earnings was regressed against the sociodemographic and employment characteristics introduced above. Of central interest are the weekly earnings of individuals in each designated visible minority category relative to White individuals, after taking into account other observed characteristics. Two specifications of these ordinary least squares regression models are presented. The first specification (i.e., Model 1) includes only sociodemographic characteristics; the second specification, Model 2, additionally includes employment characteristics. This strategy provides some flexibility in the approach to earnings differentials. Model 1 removes the effects of age, family composition, place of residence, education, and bilingualism, with the intent of tightening the comparisons to “observationally equivalent” individuals. It allows scope for employment characteristics that may vary between individuals in designated visible minority and White categories to be reflected in relative earnings, recognizing that access to different types of jobs may itself be a dimension of inequality. Model 2 additionally removes the effects of some employment characteristics, specifically full-time or part-time employment status, unionization, occupation and industry. This compares observationally equivalent individuals in observationally equivalent jobs, as measured using the two sets of covariates. Overall, Model 1 compares people with the same personal characteristics who work within a sector and asks if their weekly earnings are significantly different, while Model 2 compares people with the same personal and employment characteristics who work within a sector and asks the same question. The assumption underlying Model 2 is that access to occupations, industries, unionized jobs and full-time employment are not differentially constrained across categories (Hou & Coulombe, 2010). The full set of regression coefficients are shown for men in Appendix Table 4 and for women in Appendix Table 5. In addition, Table 2 below shows the estimated percent difference in weekly earnings between individuals in designated visible minority categories relative to their White counterparts, calculated as the $(\text{Exponent}(\log \text{coefficient}) - 1) * 100$.

The discussion begins with men. In the non-commercial sector, the weekly earnings of men in six of the nine designated visible minority categories did not differ significantly from those of White men, net of sociodemographic characteristics (Table 2, Model 1). Weekly earnings of South Asian and Chinese men were 6% to 9% higher than those of White men in the sector, while it was only the weekly earnings of Black men that were significantly lower (-8%). This latter difference in weekly earnings became non-significant when employment characteristics were added to the analysis (Table 2, Model 2), suggesting it was the types of jobs held by Black and White men in the non-commercial sector that accounted for much of the difference in weekly earnings. When employment characteristics were additionally taken into account, the weekly earnings of men in three of the nine designated visible minority categories (South Asian, Chinese and Latin American) were significantly higher than those of White men in the non-commercial sector, while the weekly earnings of men in the six other categories were not significantly different from those of White men.

In the large commercial firm sector, negative earnings differences between categories were more prevalent. Net of sociodemographic characteristics, the weekly earnings of Black, Latin American,

Filipino, Korean and other visible minority men were significantly lower than those of White men, by 6% to 19% (Table 2, Model 1). When employment characteristics were additionally taken into account, earnings differences remained significantly lower among Black, Filipino, Latin American, and other visible minority men, by 8% to 11%.

Negative earnings differences were still more prevalent in medium commercial firm sector. The weekly earnings of men in seven of the nine designated visible minority were significantly lower than those of White men when sociodemographic characteristics were taken into account, with this difference ranging from -3% among South Asian men to -24% among Black men. When employment characteristics were additionally taken into account, weekly earnings remained significantly lower among men in five categories, with the largest difference observed among Black men (-16%).

In the small commercial firm sector, the weekly earnings of men in seven of the nine designated visible minority categories were significantly lower than those of White men, net of sociodemographic characteristics. These differences remained significant when employment characteristics were taken into account, at -18% among Black men and -15% among Latin American men and -5% to -10% percent among men in five other categories.⁷ Overall, the expectation that negative earnings differentials are less prevalent in larger than smaller enterprises is observed among the men in the study population.

The weekly earnings of women within sectors exhibited different patterns than observed among men. In the non-commercial sector, the weekly earnings of women in four of the nine designated visible minority categories were significantly higher than those of White women, net of sociodemographic characteristics, while the weekly earnings of women in the other five categories were not significantly different (Table 2). When employment characteristics were additionally taken into account, the weekly earnings of Chinese, Filipino and Southeast Asian women in the non-commercial sector were 6% to 9% higher than those of White women, while the weekly earnings of South Asian, Black, and other visible minority women were 2% to 4% higher.

Across large, medium and small commercial firm sectors, the most noticeable results were the high weekly earnings of Chinese women relative to White women and the consistently lower weekly earnings of Black women relative to White women. The differences between Black and White women ranged from -7% to -10%, net of sociodemographic and employment characteristics. Significant negative differences in weekly earnings in the commercial sectors were not observed among women in other designated visible minority categories.

7. These include South Asian, Chinese, Southeast Asian, Arab/West Asian and Other designated visible minority categories.

Table 2
Estimated percent difference in weekly earnings of Canadian-born individuals aged 25 to 44 across designated visible minority and White categories, by workplace sector and sex, Canada, 2015

	Non-commercial sector		Large commercial firm sector		Medium commercial firm sector		Small commercial firm sector	
	Model 1 Sociodemographic characteristics only	Model 2 Sociodemographic and employment characteristics	Model 1 Sociodemographic characteristics only	Model 2 Sociodemographic and employment characteristics	Model 1 Sociodemographic characteristics only	Model 2 Sociodemographic and employment characteristics	Model 1 Sociodemographic characteristics only	Model 2 Sociodemographic and employment characteristics
	percent							
Men								
White (reference group)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Asian	9.4 ***	7.3 ***	-1.0	0.0	-3.0 *	-1.0	-4.9 **	-4.9 **
Chinese	6.2 ***	5.1 **	-1.0	-1.0	-6.7 ***	-3.9 **	-11.3 ***	-6.8 ***
Black	-7.7 ***	-2.0	-18.9 ***	-11.3 ***	-23.7 ***	-15.6 ***	-23.7 ***	-18.1 ***
Filipino	0.0	3.0	-14.8 ***	-7.7 ***	-11.3 ***	-3.9 *	-6.8	1.0
Latin American	7.3	7.3 *	-15.6 ***	-9.5 ***	-12.2 ***	-6.8 **	-19.7 ***	-14.9 ***
Southeast Asian	2.0	3.0	0.0	2.0	-8.6 **	-4.9	-18.1 ***	-7.7 *
Arab/West Asian	3.0	4.1	1.0	2.0	4.1	4.1	-15.6 ***	-9.5 *
Korean/Japanese	-1.0	-3.0	-5.8 **	-2.0	-2.0	0.0	-3.0	1.0
Other visible minority	0.0	2.0	-10.4 ***	-7.7 ***	-10.4 ***	-3.9 *	-13.1 ***	-8.6 **
Women								
White (reference group)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Asian	4.1 ***	2.0 *	3.0 *	1.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	-1.0
Chinese	8.3 ***	8.3 ***	11.6 ***	5.1 ***	11.6 ***	6.2 ***	8.3 **	3.0
Black	0.0	2.0 **	-11.3 ***	-6.8 ***	-13.9 ***	-10.4 ***	-12.2 ***	-7.7 ***
Filipino	12.7 ***	9.4 ***	-1.0	0.0	-3.0	-1.0	-2.0	-2.0
Latin American	-1.0	-1.0	-10.4 ***	-4.9 *	-5.8	-3.0	-2.0	1.0
Southeast Asian	5.1 *	6.2 **	3.0	0.0	5.1	5.1	2.0	3.0
Arab/West Asian	-3.0	-1.0	-3.9	0.0	1.0	3.0	-5.8	-4.9
Korean/Japanese	-1.0	0.0	1.0	3.0	6.2	8.3 **	-3.9	-2.0
Other visible minority	2.0	4.1 *	-4.9 **	-3.9 **	-2.0	-3.0	-2.0	-2.0

... not applicable

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.01)

*** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.001)

Notes: LEAP = Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program. Sample includes non-Indigenous persons aged 25 to 44, who were born in Canada, who had at least one week of paid employment and \$500 in earnings in 2015, and were not self-employed that year. Model 1 also includes age, age-squared, education, family composition, English/French bilingual status, province of residence, census metropolitan area of residence. Model 2 additionally includes occupation, industry, unionization, and full-time or part-time status.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census and 2015 T4-LEAP file.

Some comment is warranted on the correlations between weekly earnings and the sociodemographic and employment control variables used in the analysis. These correlations are shown for men in Appendix Table 4 and for women in Appendix Table 5. The correlation coefficients from Model 2, including both socioeconomic and employment characteristics, are shown. Given the large number of data points in these tables, results are discussed in fairly broad terms.

Across the eight models, weekly earnings were consistently and positively correlated with age, educational attainment and bilingualism, as expected. In addition, weekly earnings were generally higher in Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal than in areas outside of Canada's 35 CMAs.⁸ And compared with Ontario, weekly earnings were generally higher in western Canada, particularly in the oil-producing provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and in Newfoundland and Labrador—another oil-producing province. Compared with Ontario, weekly earnings were lower in Quebec and the Maritime provinces. Weekly earnings varied significantly across family composition in ways that differed between women and men. For example, among men who were married or in common-law relationships, weekly earnings were higher among those with children than those without, while among women who were married or in common-law relationships weekly earnings were lower among those with children than those without.

Considering employment characteristics, weekly earnings across occupational categories yielded expected results, such as significantly and substantially lower earnings in sales and personal and customer services occupations than in management occupations. Expected results are also observed across industries, such as significantly higher earnings in mining, oil and gas and utilities than in manufacturing. Similarly, the strong correlation expected between weekly earnings and mostly full-time or part-time status is observed and between union status and weekly earnings.

Discussion and conclusions

Overall, this study yields more disaggregated information on the relative weekly earnings of individuals in designated visible minority and White categories than has been available to date.

The results are partially consistent with expectations about how earnings differences between individuals in designated visible minority and White categories might vary across workplace sectors.

In the non-commercial sector, the relative weekly earnings of women and men in visible minority groups compared favourably with White women and men. Net of sociodemographic and employment characteristics, weekly earnings relative to White individuals were significantly higher among men in three of the nine designated visible minority categories and among women in six of the nine categories. Weekly earnings among men and women in other categories did not differ significantly from White men and women in this sector.

In the commercial sector, negative earnings differences relative to White men were observed among men in several designated visible minority categories. In the large commercial firm sector, weekly earnings relative to White men were significantly lower among men in four of the nine designated visible minority categories. In the medium commercial firm sector, weekly earnings were significantly lower among men in five of the nine categories, and in the small commercial firm sector, weekly earnings were significantly lower among men in seven of the nine categories. In all instances, the magnitude of the difference was largest among Black men. Overall, it was among men employed in the small commercial firm sector that

8. Lower earnings among men in Vancouver than outside of CMAs in the province of British Columbia is one exception.

differences in weekly earnings between designated visible minority and White categories were most prevalent.

Among women in the commercial firm sectors, weekly earnings between designated visible minority and White categories were not significantly different in most cases. This may reflect lower average weekly earnings among White women than White men and the lower benchmark against which women in designated visible minority categories are being compared with. The consistently low relative earnings among Black women in the commercial firm sectors is another result that stands out.

Looking ahead, the 2021 Census will soon provide the opportunity to update the analysis above. This will be informative given that the cohort of Canadian-born individuals included in this study will be five years older and further along their career and earnings trajectories in 2021 than they were in 2016.

Appendix tables

Appendix Table 1

Selected compositional characteristics of men, by workplace sector, Canada, 2016

	Mean age	Percentage with bachelor's degree or higher	Percentage work mostly part-time	Percentage unionized	Percentage in sales or service occupations
	year		percent		
Non-commercial sector					
Total	34.9	47.5	7.6	69.1	11.6
White	35.0	46.4	7.3	69.2	11.5
South Asian	33.7	68.2	9.0	67.3	10.7
Chinese	32.8	75.1	10.3	66.9	6.4
Black	34.1	37.1	15.6	70.5	23.8
Filipino	33.5	46.8	11.9	67.1	15.8
Latin American	32.1	36.5	11.8	67.7	16.7
Southeast Asian	30.8	59.5	16.0	64.8	9.5
Arab/West Asian	32.4	63.0	12.2	67.0	10.2
Korean/Japanese	34.8	73.2	8.4	67.6	5.0
Other	33.5	59.2	12.7	67.0	13.1
Large commercial sector firms					
Total	34.3	25.3	5.5	27.9	18.4
White	34.5	23.7	5.0	28.8	17.6
South Asian	32.3	48.2	9.2	16.2	24.2
Chinese	32.5	63.3	7.1	13.0	18.3
Black	33.1	19.8	14.3	28.0	32.6
Filipino	33.2	27.3	10.4	23.4	27.1
Latin American	31.3	16.9	13.2	27.2	29.7
Southeast Asian	30.0	37.4	11.5	20.2	26.1
Arab/West Asian	31.5	42.9	9.9	20.1	25.8
Korean/Japanese	33.5	50.7	8.4	15.9	22.3
Other	32.3	34.1	9.8	17.9	26.2
Medium commercial sector firms					
Total	33.8	18.0	4.9	14.6	17.3
White	33.9	17.0	4.6	15.1	16.8
South Asian	32.3	40.0	8.0	6.4	21.2
Chinese	32.1	51.9	6.5	3.7	20.3
Black	32.6	14.6	13.5	12.2	28.6
Filipino	32.2	19.4	9.4	6.9	28.4
Latin American	30.4	12.1	10.0	13.9	29.0
Southeast Asian	30.0	30.6	9.8	6.7	23.0
Arab/West Asian	31.4	34.7	5.5	6.9	21.6
Korean/Japanese	33.2	48.5	4.4	5.8	17.1
Other	31.8	27.5	9.5	7.4	23.8
Small commercial sector firms					
Total	33.3	14.6	7.5	8.6	15.1
White	33.4	13.7	7.1	9.0	14.7
South Asian	31.9	35.5	10.6	1.3	18.3
Chinese	31.2	48.8	15.5	0.4	22.3
Black	32.0	13.0	16.6	5.2	25.4
Filipino	31.7	20.3	15.2	1.1	26.7
Latin American	29.9	11.9	15.9	6.7	25.3
Southeast Asian	29.1	22.9	20.2	1.9	32.1
Arab/West Asian	31.5	29.8	14.0	3.2	28.0
Korean/Japanese	33.1	37.5	10.1	1.1	22.4
Other	31.1	24.0	12.3	2.4	23.9

Notes: LEAP = Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program. Sample includes non-Indigenous persons aged 25 to 44, who were born in Canada, who had at least one week of paid employment and \$500 in earnings in 2015, and were not self-employed that year.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census and 2015 T4-LEAP file.

Appendix Table 2
Selected compositional characteristics of women, by workplace sector, Canada, 2016

	Mean age	Percentage with Bachelor's degree or higher	Percentage work mostly part-time	Percentage unionized	Percentage in sales or service occupations
	years		percent		
Non-commercial sector					
Total	34.6	52.5	18.7	69.7	14.5
White	34.7	51.6	18.7	70.1	14.8
South Asian	32.8	70.0	17.1	65.1	8.8
Chinese	32.6	81.5	17.0	65.2	6.0
Black	33.6	46.5	20.4	65.7	18.5
Filipino	33.3	57.5	17.9	65.5	8.8
Latin American	31.6	38.8	18.4	59.2	15.9
Southeast Asian	30.1	63.2	18.9	62.6	11.7
Arab/West Asian	32.0	65.7	20.6	65.2	10.2
Korean/Japanese	34.1	78.0	19.2	62.4	5.6
Other	32.6	65.0	18.9	62.7	10.4
Large commercial sector firms					
Total	34.0	33.7	14.2	15.5	32.8
White	34.3	31.6	14.2	15.9	32.9
South Asian	32.1	58.7	14.2	10.0	28.7
Chinese	32.2	72.1	8.5	9.3	21.9
Black	32.8	29.6	19.5	17.0	41.6
Filipino	32.7	42.4	14.6	11.6	31.3
Latin American	31.6	24.1	22.9	19.2	42.8
Southeast Asian	29.9	46.8	14.2	9.5	31.4
Arab/West Asian	31.2	50.6	20.0	11.3	39.0
Korean/Japanese	33.9	59.5	11.0	11.9	23.9
Other	32.1	46.6	14.9	10.9	32.7
Medium commercial sector firms					
Total	33.5	27.5	14.9	6.5	34.0
White	33.7	26.1	14.8	6.7	34.3
South Asian	31.9	54.0	14.3	3.9	26.6
Chinese	31.8	63.4	11.3	2.9	20.9
Black	32.0	27.8	19.4	6.1	37.5
Filipino	31.9	36.6	18.0	2.5	31.2
Latin American	30.1	23.5	21.9	6.0	39.1
Southeast Asian	29.2	38.2	19.6	2.8	32.8
Arab/West Asian	30.7	44.9	20.8	3.2	35.6
Korean/Japanese	32.1	51.9	15.8	3.2	28.3
Other	31.1	40.2	15.3	3.6	28.6
Small commercial sector firms					
Total	33.6	23.2	25.3	1.0	35.0
White	33.7	22.0	25.3	1.0	35.4
South Asian	31.4	52.4	25.6	0.3	22.1
Chinese	31.3	61.5	20.4	0.6	21.4
Black	31.8	25.7	29.7	0.7	39.8
Filipino	31.8	31.8	24.1	‡	34.2
Latin American	30.6	16.9	29.9	1.2	33.6
Southeast Asian	28.9	32.1	21.6	0.4	43.5
Arab/West Asian	31.9	39.0	30.0	0.6	28.4
Korean/Japanese	33.1	47.2	28.8	‡	24.8
Other	30.6	38.8	23.3	0.3	30.7

‡ the results are suppressed because sample size is less than 10

Notes: LEAP = Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program. Sample includes non-Indigenous persons aged 25 to 44, who were born in Canada, who had at least one week of paid employment and \$500 in earnings in 2015, and were not self-employed that year.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census and 2015 T4-LEAP file.

Appendix Table 3
**Average weekly earnings in dollars among men and women in the study population, by
workplace sector, 2016**

	Non-commercial sector	Large commercial sector firms	Medium commercial sector firms	Small commercial sector firms
	dollars			
Men				
Total	1,600	2,200	1,700	1,200
White	1,600	2,200	1,700	1,200
South Asian	1,600	2,000	1,600	1,200
Chinese	1,600	1,900	1,600	1,200
Black	1,400	1,500	1,200	1,000
Filipino	1,300	1,400	1,300	1,000
Latin American	1,500	1,300	1,200	800
Southeast Asian	1,400	1,500	1,300	900
Arab/West Asian	1,500	1,800	1,600	1,300
Korean/Japanese	1,800	2,200	2,200	1,500
Other visible minorities	1,400	1,500	1,400	1,000
Women				
Total	1,300	1,300	1,100	800
White	1,300	1,300	1,100	800
South Asian	1,300	1,600	1,300	1,000
Chinese	1,500	1,700	1,400	1,100
Black	1,300	1,100	900	800
Filipino	1,400	1,300	1,100	900
Latin American	1,200	1,000	800	700
Southeast Asian	1,200	1,200	1,100	700
Arab/West Asian	1,400	1,200	1,100	900
Korean/Japanese	1,400	1,700	1,300	1,000
Other visible minorities	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,000

Notes: LEAP = Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program. Sample includes non-Indigenous persons aged 25 to 44, who were born in Canada, who had at least one week of paid employment and \$500 in earnings in 2015, and were not self-employed that year. Results are rounded to the nearest 100.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census and 2015 T4-LEAP file.

Appendix Table 4
Difference in log weekly earnings of male Canadian-born individuals aged 25 to 44, by workplace sector, Canada 2015

	Non-commercial sector	Large commercial sector firms	Medium commercial sector firms	Small commercial sector firms
coefficient				
Men				
Visible minority status				
White (reference group)	...	...	...	...
South Asian	0.07 ***	0.00	-0.01	-0.05 **
Chinese	0.05 **	-0.01	-0.04 **	-0.07 ***
Black	-0.02	-0.12 ***	-0.17 ***	-0.20 ***
Filipino	0.03	-0.08 ***	-0.04 *	0.01
Latin American	0.07 *	-0.10 ***	-0.07 **	-0.16 ***
Southeast Asian	0.03	0.02	-0.05	-0.08 *
Arab/West Asian	0.04	0.02	0.04	-0.10 *
Korean/Japanese	-0.03	-0.02	0.00	0.01
Other	0.02	-0.08 ***	-0.04 *	-0.09 **
Age	0.08 ***	0.05 ***	0.04 ***	0.04 ***
Age square /100	-0.09 ***	-0.05 ***	-0.04 ***	-0.03 ***
Education attainment				
No degree, certificate or diploma	-0.15 ***	-0.12 ***	-0.06 ***	-0.05 ***
High school (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Postsecondary education below bachelor's degree / Trade	0.05 ***	0.11 ***	0.11 ***	0.10 ***
Bachelor's degree	0.07 ***	0.23 ***	0.21 ***	0.17 ***
Above bachelor's degree	0.06 ***	0.38 ***	0.33 ***	0.26 ***
Official language				
English (reference group)	...	...	...	...
French	-0.03 **	-0.01 *	-0.05 ***	0.00
English and French	0.04 ***	0.03 ***	0.01 *	0.02 *
Neither English nor French	-0.65 *	-0.05	-0.35 ***	0.00
Census family status				
Married or common-law without children	-0.09 ***	-0.11 ***	-0.12 ***	-0.09 ***
Married or common-law with children (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Lone parent	-0.07 ***	-0.10 ***	-0.15 ***	-0.12 ***
Child in a census family	-0.26 ***	-0.33 ***	-0.31 ***	-0.27 ***
Person living alone	-0.08 ***	-0.13 ***	-0.14 ***	-0.11 ***
Person not in a census family but live with others	-0.23 ***	-0.28 ***	-0.29 ***	-0.25 ***
Province of residence				
Newfoundland and Labrador	-0.05 ***	0.19 ***	0.14 ***	0.03 *
Prince Edward Island	-0.18 ***	-0.28 ***	-0.16 ***	-0.10 ***
Nova Scotia	-0.06 ***	-0.09 ***	-0.12 ***	-0.10 ***
New Brunswick	-0.12 ***	-0.12 ***	-0.09 ***	-0.07 ***
Quebec	-0.15 ***	-0.09 ***	-0.13 ***	-0.15 ***
Ontario (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Manitoba	-0.06 ***	0.02 *	0.00	0.06 ***
Saskatchewan	0.04 ***	0.18 ***	0.21 ***	0.21 ***
Alberta	0.13 ***	0.31 ***	0.29 ***	0.27 ***
British Columbia	-0.01	0.14 ***	0.12 ***	0.09 ***
Territories	0.32 ***	0.26 ***	0.18 ***	0.23 ***
Census metropolitan area of residence				
Montréal	0.00	0.01	0.04 ***	0.05 ***
Toronto	0.04 ***	0.08 ***	0.06 ***	0.09 ***
Vancouver	-0.02 *	-0.02 **	-0.05 ***	0.00
Medium-size census metropolitan area	0.03 ***	-0.07 ***	-0.03 ***	0.00
Small size census metropolitan area	-0.02 ***	-0.08 ***	-0.05 ***	-0.02 ***
Not in a census metropolitan area (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Occupations				
Management (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Professional occupations	-0.23 ***	-0.13 ***	-0.16 ***	-0.02 *
Technical and paraprofessional occupations	-0.08 ***	-0.21 ***	-0.29 ***	-0.16 ***
Administration and administrative support	-0.33 ***	-0.37 ***	-0.41 ***	-0.21 ***
Sales	-0.47 ***	-0.33 ***	-0.28 ***	-0.16 ***
Personal and customer information services	-0.42 ***	-0.48 ***	-0.54 ***	-0.39 ***
Industrial, construction and equipment operation trades	-0.22 ***	-0.12 ***	-0.22 ***	-0.09 ***
Workers and labourers in transport and construction	-0.34 ***	-0.28 ***	-0.35 ***	-0.17 ***
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	-0.39 ***	-0.06 ***	-0.22 ***	-0.14 ***
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	-0.30 ***	-0.21 ***	-0.40 ***	-0.26 ***

... not applicable

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.01)

*** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.001)

1. Non-commercial services is not included in these regressions.

Notes: LEAP = Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program. Sample includes non-Indigenous persons aged 25 to 44, who were born in Canada, who had at least one week of paid employment and \$500 in earnings in 2015, and were not self-employed that year.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census and 2015 T4-LEAP file.

Appendix Table 4

Difference in log weekly earnings of male Canadian-born individuals aged 25 to 44, by workplace sector, Canada 2015
(continued)

	Non-commercial sector	Large commercial sector firms	Medium commercial sector firms	Small commercial sector firms
	coefficient			
Full-time part-time status	0.76 ***	0.64 ***	0.62 ***	0.59 ***
Industry groups¹				
Mining, oil and gas and utilities	...	0.40 ***	0.55 ***	0.37 ***
Construction	...	0.21 ***	0.21 ***	0.03 ***
Manufacturing (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Transport, warehousing, wholesale, and other	...	-0.06 ***	0.02 ***	0.02 **
Business services	...	0.00	0.13 ***	0.10 ***
Consumer services	...	-0.29 ***	-0.19 ***	-0.15 ***
Unknown	...	0.02	0.07 ***	-0.11 ***
Unionization	0.12 ***	0.01 ***	0.11 ***	0.23 ***
Constant	4.80 ***	5.55 ***	5.62 ***	5.52 ***
R-squared	0.32	0.43	0.38	0.25

... not applicable

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.01$)*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.001$)

1. Non-commercial services is not included in these regressions.

Notes: LEAP = Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program. Sample includes non-Indigenous persons aged 25 to 44, who were born in Canada, who had at least one week of paid employment and \$500 in earnings in 2015, and were not self-employed that year.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census and 2015 T4-LEAP file.

Appendix Table 5

Difference in log weekly earnings of female Canadian-born individuals aged 25 to 44, by workplace sector, Canada, 2015

	Non-commercial sector	Large commercial sector firms	Medium commercial sector firms	Small commercial sector firms
coefficient				
Women				
Visible minority status				
White (reference group)	...	...	...	...
South Asian	0.02 *	0.01	0.00	-0.01
Chinese	0.08 ***	0.05 ***	0.06 ***	0.03
Black	0.02 **	-0.07 ***	-0.11 ***	-0.08 ***
Filipino	0.09 ***	0.00	-0.01	-0.02
Latin American	-0.01	-0.05 *	-0.03	0.01
Southeast Asian	0.06 **	0.00	0.05	0.03
Arab/West Asian	-0.01	0.00	0.03	-0.05
Korean/Japanese	0.00	0.03	0.08 **	-0.02
Other	0.04 *	-0.04 **	-0.03	-0.02
Age	0.08 ***	0.08 ***	0.06 ***	0.04 ***
Age square /100	-0.09 ***	-0.08 ***	-0.05 ***	-0.03 ***
Education attainment				
No degree, certificate or diploma	-0.15 ***	-0.16 ***	-0.09 ***	-0.08 ***
High school (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Postsecondary education below bachelor's degree / Trade	0.10 ***	0.05 ***	0.07 ***	0.07 ***
Bachelor's degree	0.22 ***	0.24 ***	0.22 ***	0.18 ***
Above bachelor's degree	0.24 ***	0.34 ***	0.31 ***	0.26 ***
Official language				
English (reference group)	...	...	...	...
French	-0.03 ***	-0.04 ***	-0.06 ***	-0.02
English and French	0.02 ***	0.05 ***	0.03 ***	0.02
Neither English nor French	-0.41	0.02	-0.18	-0.93
Census family status				
Married or common-law without children	0.05 ***	0.04 ***	0.06 ***	0.05 ***
Married or common-law with children (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Lone parent	-0.03 ***	-0.07 ***	-0.07 ***	-0.07 ***
Child in a census family	-0.06 ***	-0.07 ***	-0.04 ***	-0.05 ***
Person living alone	0.08 ***	0.06 ***	0.09 ***	0.07 ***
Person not in a census family but live with others	-0.04 ***	-0.05 ***	-0.05 ***	-0.03 ***
Province of residence				
Newfoundland and Labrador	-0.05 ***	0.04 **	0.03 *	0.01
Prince Edward Island	-0.14 ***	-0.18 ***	-0.12 ***	-0.07 **
Nova Scotia	-0.12 ***	-0.08 ***	-0.08 ***	-0.08 ***
New Brunswick	-0.13 ***	-0.11 ***	-0.08 ***	-0.04 **
Quebec	-0.14 ***	-0.07 ***	-0.03 ***	-0.06 ***
Ontario (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Manitoba	-0.04 ***	0.01	0.00	0.06 ***
Saskatchewan	0.08 ***	0.12 ***	0.16 ***	0.15 ***
Alberta	0.12 ***	0.22 ***	0.21 ***	0.18 ***
British Columbia	-0.04 ***	0.08 ***	0.07 ***	0.04 ***
Territories	0.34 ***	0.30 ***	0.33 ***	0.28 ***
Census metropolitan area of residence				
Montréal	0.00	0.11 ***	0.08 ***	0.08 ***
Toronto	0.02 ***	0.19 ***	0.16 ***	0.13 ***
Vancouver	0.01	0.11 ***	0.08 ***	0.07 ***
Medium-size census metropolitan area	0.04 ***	0.07 ***	0.05 ***	0.06 ***
Small-size census metropolitan area	0.00	0.02 **	0.00	0.02 **
Not in a census metropolitan area (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Occupations				
Management (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Professional occupations	-0.14 ***	-0.09 ***	-0.08 ***	0.04 **
Technical and paraprofessional occupations	-0.26 ***	-0.23 ***	-0.27 ***	-0.13 ***
Administration and administrative support	-0.36 ***	-0.32 ***	-0.31 ***	-0.15 ***
Sales	-0.52 ***	-0.34 ***	-0.35 ***	-0.27 ***
Personal and customer information services	-0.52 ***	-0.44 ***	-0.47 ***	-0.34 ***
Industrial, construction and equipment operation trades	-0.24 ***	-0.10 ***	-0.23 ***	-0.13 ***
Workers and labourers in transport and construction	-0.42 ***	-0.31 ***	-0.37 ***	-0.28 ***
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	-0.48 ***	-0.23 ***	-0.34 ***	-0.31 ***
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	-0.34 ***	-0.31 ***	-0.43 ***	-0.28 ***

... not applicable

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.01)

*** significantly different from reference category (p < 0.001)

1. Non-commercial services is not included in these regressions.

Notes: LEAP = Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program. Sample includes non-Indigenous persons aged 25 to 44, who were born in Canada, who had at least one week of paid employment and \$500 in earnings in 2015, and were not self-employed that year.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census and 2015 T4-LEAP file.

Appendix Table 5

Difference in log weekly earnings of female Canadian-born individuals aged 25 to 44, by workplace sector, Canada, 2015
(continued)

	Non-commercial sector	Large commercial sector firms	Medium commercial sector firms	Small commercial sector firms
	coefficient			
Full-time part-time status	0.53 ***	0.65 ***	0.59 ***	0.55 ***
Industry groups¹				
Mining, oil and gas and utilities	...	0.35 ***	0.43 ***	0.42 ***
Construction	...	0.08 ***	0.12 ***	0.11 ***
Manufacturing (reference group)	...	...	...	...
Transport, warehousing, wholesale, and other	...	-0.12 ***	-0.04 ***	0.04 **
Business services	...	-0.06 ***	0.04 ***	0.09 ***
Consumer services	...	-0.37 ***	-0.24 ***	-0.14 ***
Unknown	...	-0.15 ***	-0.04 *	-0.08 ***
Unionization	0.22 ***	0.08 ***	0.05 ***	0.13 ***
Constant	4.69 ***	4.75 ***	4.97 ***	5.15 ***
R-squared	0.31	0.44	0.38	0.29

... not applicable

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.01$)*** significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.001$)

1. Non-commercial services is not included in these regressions.

Notes: LEAP = Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program. Sample includes non-Indigenous persons aged 25 to 44, who were born in Canada, who had at least one week of paid employment and \$500 in earnings in 2015, and were not self-employed that year.**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2016 Census and 2015 T4-LEAP file.

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