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# **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR EARNINGS OF IMMIGRANTS AND THE CANADIAN-BORN: EVIDENCE FROM THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY**

## **ABSTRACT**

Using Statistics Canada's monthly Labour Force Survey master files from January 2006 to December 2018, this paper evaluates the wage differences between immigrants and comparable Canadian-born workers both within the respective levels of the private and public sectors, as well as the public sector wage premium within the immigrant and Canadian-born populations. Using both Ordinary Least Squares and Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition techniques, we find that the immigrant wage gap tends to be negative and is largest in the private sector. The public-sector premium relative to the private sector is also larger for immigrants than for the Canadian-born when we compare wage differences within the two groups. Combined, these results suggest that public sector wages are important to narrowing the overall immigrant wage gap.

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