

**Hours Inequality**

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**Abstract**

Earnings are the product of wages and hours of work, hence the dispersion of hours can magnify or dampen a given distribution of wages. This paper examines how earnings inequality is affected by the dispersion of working hours using data for the US, the UK, Germany and France over the period 1989-2012. We find that hours dispersion can account for over a third of earnings inequality in some countries and that its contribution has been growing over time. Our results are mainly driven by the changes in the gap of hours worked by the poorest and the richest workers.

**Keywords:** Empirics