

# **The U.S. Gender Gap Through the Great Recession Using an Alternative Approach to Cyclicity**

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Annual changes in the U.S. gender gap are analyzed before, during, and after the Great Recession using a quasi-experimental approach, with treatment and comparison groups based on the industry composition within states. During this recession, the hourly wage gap was differentially reduced by seven to ten percentage points in states with a higher concentration of employment in maledominant and cyclical industries, while the employment gap was differentially reduced by five to seven percentage points. Neither outcome was significantly altered in the years immediately before or after the recession. The evidence supports the procyclicality of the gender gap movements.

**Keywords:** business cycle, gender gap, Great Recession, quasi-experiment.

**JEL Codes:** J16, J31, E32.