

# “Globalization: A Woman’s best Friend? Exporters and the Gender Wage Gap”

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This study explores the relationship between the gender wage gap and the firm’s export status using matched employer-employee data from the Norwegian manufacturing sector between 1996 and 2010. We estimate a standard Mincerian wage regression and find evidence of a substantial gender wage gap. More interestingly, the gender wage gap appears to be smaller in exporting firms. This effect is both statistically significant and economically meaningful. Working for an exporting firm is associated with a 5.7 percentage point lower gender differential, which amounts to closing the gender wage gap by about 24%. Exporters exhibit their distinctive behavior prior to entry into foreign markets, which may be a source of competitive advantage.