



DOCUMENT DE TRAVAIL

DT/2009-07

Decomposing Gender and Ethnic Earnings Gaps in Seven West African Cities

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DECOMPOSING GENDER AND ETHNIC EARNINGS GAPS IN SEVEN WEST AFRICAN CITIES

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Document de travail DIAL

Octobre 2009

Abstract

In this paper, we analyse the size and determinants of gender and ethnic earnings gaps in seven West African capitals (Abidjan, Bamako, Cotonou, Dakar, Lome, Niamey and Ouagadougou) based on a unique and perfectly comparable dataset coming from the *I-2-3 Surveys* conducted in the seven cities from 2001 to 2002. Analysing gender and ethnic earnings gaps in an African context raises a number of important issues that our paper attempts to address, notably by taking into account labour allocation between public, private formal and informal sectors which can be expected to contribute to earnings gaps. Our results show that gender earnings gaps are large in all the cities of our sample and that gender differences in the distribution of characteristics usually explain less than half of the raw gender gap. By contrast, majority ethnic groups do not appear to have a systematic favourable position in the urban labour markets of our sample of countries and observed ethnic gaps are small relative to gender gaps. Whatever the “sign” of the gap, the contribution of differences in the distribution of individual characteristics varies markedly between cities. Taking into account differences in sectoral locations in the decomposition of gender earnings gaps provides evidence that within-sector differences in earnings account for the largest share of the gender gap and that the differences in sectoral locations are always more favorable to men than to women. By contrast, concerning ethnic earnings gaps, the full decomposition indicates that sectoral location sometimes plays a “compensating” role against observed earnings gaps. Looking at finer levels of ethnic disaggregation confirms that ethnic earnings differentials are systematically smaller than gender differentials.

Key words: earnings equations, gender wage gap, ethnic wage gap, West Africa

Résumé

Dans cette étude nous analysons le poids et les déterminants des différentiels de rémunérations entre genre et groupes ethniques dans sept métropoles d’Afrique de l’Ouest (Abidjan, Bamako, Cotonou, Dakar, Lomé, Niamey and Ouagadougou), en mobilisant une base de données unique et parfaitement comparable, provenant des *enquêtes I-2-3* réalisées dans les sept villes en 2001 et 2002. Cette question soulève un certain nombre de questions méthodologiques que nous tentons de traiter en détail, notamment en tenant compte des différences de composition ethnique et de genre entre les secteurs public, privé formel et informel qui sont susceptibles de jouer sur les écarts de revenus. Les résultats mettent en évidence l’existence d’un déficit systématique de rémunération pour les femmes, les caractéristiques des emplois expliquant moins de la moitié de ces écarts. A contrario, les groupes ethniques majoritaires ne semblent pas bénéficier d’une situation avantageuse et les écarts de revenus suivant le groupe ethnique sont relativement faibles par rapport à ceux que l’on observe suivant le genre. Quel que soit le signe de ce différentiel (positif ou négatif), la contribution expliquée par les caractéristiques observées de l’emploi varie très sensiblement d’une ville à l’autre. Les estimations montrent qu’une grande partie de l’écart de revenu selon le genre provient de l’allocation sectorielle, et que cette dernière est toujours défavorable aux femmes. En revanche, dans le cas des écarts suivant le groupe ethnique, la distribution par secteur institutionnel joue parfois de façon positive dans le sens d’une réduction des écarts. Finalement, une désagrégation plus fine des groupes ethniques, au-delà de la partition majoritaire/minoritaire, confirme que l’entrée ethnique est systématiquement moins significative sur les revenus du travail que le genre.

Mots-clé : Equation de gain, écart de salaire, décomposition, genre, Ethnie, Afrique de l’Ouest

JEL Classification: J31, J71, O15, O55

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1. Introduction

Many studies have shown that women and ethnic minorities may face unequal treatment in the labour markets of both developed and developing countries compared to men or majority ethnic groups (Altonji and Blank, 1999). In the case of Africa, there is in fact little known about inequalities in labour market outcomes and enhancing the gender and ethnic gap literature on the poorest countries is important for several reasons. First, there are manifest shortcomings of studies on African countries, particularly due to the shortage of available data (Bennell, 1996). Second, gender and ethnic inequalities are likely to be greater when markets do not function efficiently and the states lack resources for introducing corrective policies. Third, understanding the roots of inequalities between the sexes and ethnic groups and reducing the gender and ethnic gap could help design poverty reducing policies in these countries. Under the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) initiative that concerns over sixty of the world's poorest countries, policies designed to counter gender discrimination are among the recommended solutions to reduce poverty: Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) is specifically aimed at reducing gender inequalities. In order to put this recommendation into practice, one needs to understand whether differences in labour outcomes stem from differences in characteristics or from differences in the returns to these characteristics. These would indeed require different sets of policies. In Sub-Saharan countries, the deterioration of the labour markets as well as the partial freeze on public sector recruitment from the mid-1980s may have accentuated the circumstances (i.e. labour market entry and exit) that could give rise to gender and ethnic inequalities in the labour market.

While there is a sizeable number of papers dealing with ethnic and gender wage gap in developed countries (Altonji and Blank, 1999; Blau and Kahn, 2000), we can infer from Weichselbaumer and Winter-Ebmer (2005)'s meta-analysis that only 3 percent of the studies on gender wage gap stem from African data out of all the empirical literature since the 1960s. The existing literature¹ on gender gaps indicates that there is a wide consensus on the

¹ See, notably, Glewwe (1990) for Ghana; Cohen and House (1993) for Sudan; Milne and Neitzert (1994) and Agesa (1999) for Kenya; Glick and Sahn (1997) for Guinea; Lachaud (1997) for Burkina and Cameroun; Armitage and Sabot (1991) for Kenya and Tanzania; Appleton, Hoddinott and Krishnan (1999) for Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia; Isemonger and Roberts (1999) for South Africa; Siphambe and Thokweng-Bakwena (2001) for Botswana; Kabubo-Mariara (2003) for Kenya; Temesgen (2006) for Ethiopia; Kolev and Suarez Robles (2007) for Ethiopia; Nordman and Roubaud (2009) and

importance of inequalities between men and women, both for salaried and self-employed workers. For instance, in Guinea, Glick and Sahn (1997) find that differences in characteristics account for 45 percent of the male-female gap in earnings from self-employment and 25 percent of the differences in earnings from public-sector employment while, in the private sector, women actually earn more than men. Armitage and Sabot (1991) also find that such gender inequality exists in the public sector of Tanzania but observed no gender discrimination in Kenya's labour market. The latter result holds true both for the public and private sectors of the Kenyan economy. Similarly, Glewwe (1990) found no wage discrimination against women in Ghana. On the contrary, females seem better off than males in the public sector. More recently, Siphambe and Thokweng-Bakwena (2001) show that in the public sector of Botswana most of the wage gap is due to differences in characteristics between men and women and not to discrimination. On the other hand, in the private sector, most of the wage gap is due to discrimination. Likewise, in Uganda and Côte d'Ivoire, Appleton et al. (1999) find evidence that the public sector practises less wage discrimination than the private sector. A similar result is obtained for Madagascar by Nordman and Roubaud (2009) who evidence a gender wage gap to the advantage of women in the state sector. From all the existing studies, one can hardly conclude on the existence of a common cross-country pattern in the relative magnitudes of the gender wage gaps in the public and private sectors. However, the main reason for this diversity in results might come from the great heterogeneity in the data sources used by the different authors (either labour force or household surveys undertaken for other purposes than labour market issues), in the period they consider and also in the methodology they implement.

Concerning the ethnic wage gap, the literature is even scarcer. Barr and Oduro (2000) find for Ghana that a significant proportion of earnings differentials between ethnic groups can be explained by standard observed workers' characteristics. On the other hand, the question of the role of ethnolinguistic fractionalization on development has received much more attention. For instance, Easterly and Levine (1997) conclude that "Africa's growth tragedy" is in part related to its high level of ethnic diversity, resulting in poor institutional functioning. This result is, however, still debated (see Bossuroy, 2007 for a discussion).

Nordman, Rakotomanana and Robilliard (2009) for Madagascar; Nordman and Wolff (2009a) for Morocco and Nordman and Wolff (2009b) for the formal sectors of Madagascar and Mauritius.

In this paper, we cast some new light on these issues by using labour force surveys carried out in seven economic capitals of francophone West Africa. The contribution of this study stems from at least two main advantages. First, the data used were collected using identical sampling method and virtually identical questionnaires in each city in the same period of time (2001-2003), making for totally comparable results.² Second, we analyse both gender and ethnic gap issues using the same methodological approach for each city. Given that these are the two most important individual characteristics expected to give rise to discrimination, we believe it is interesting to compare the magnitude of discrimination, if any, against females and against minority or other ethnic groups.

The remainder of the paper is divided as follows. Section 2 discusses the data, concepts and econometric methods used. In section 3 we comment on the results. Finally, in section 4, we draw together the main findings and conclude.

2. Data, Concepts and Methodology

In this section, we first present the data and concepts used in this study before discussing the methodology of earnings decompositions, an essential aspect of our investigation of the gender and ethnic disparities in the West African labour markets.

2.1. Data and concepts

Our data are taken from an original series of urban household surveys in West Africa, the *1-2-3 Surveys* conducted in seven major WAEMU³ cities (Abidjan, Bamako, Cotonou, Dakar, Lome, Niamey and Ouagadougou) from 2001 to 2002. The surveys were carried out by the relevant countries' National Statistics Institutes (NSIs), AFRISTAT and DIAL as part of the PARSTAT Project.⁴ The surveys cover the economic city, i.e. the "administrative city" and all the small towns and villages directly attached to it and with which there are frequent exchanges. As suggested by its name, the *1-2-3 Survey* is a three-phase survey. The first phase concerns individuals' socio-demographic characteristics (including education and literacy)

² For another comparative analysis with these data, see Kuepie et al. (2009).

³ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union. The survey was not carried out in Guinea-Bissau.

⁴ Regional Statistical Assistance Programme for multilateral monitoring sponsored by the WAEMU Commission.

and labour market integration. The second phase covers the informal sector and its main productive characteristics. The third phase focuses on household consumption and living conditions. The same methodology and virtually identical questionnaires were used in each city, making for totally comparable indicators. Our study uses only the Phase 1 data. Phase 1 of the *1-2-3 Survey* is a statistical employment survey designed to (i) provide the main indicators to describe the situation of individuals and households on the labour market. It covers household employment and economic activities, especially in the informal sector; (ii) serve as a filter survey to identify a representative sample of informal production units, which are then surveyed in Phase 2.

The sample surveyed in Phase 1 has a total of 93,213 individuals (17,841 households) with country sample sizes varying from 9,907 individuals in Togo to 19,065 individuals in Senegal. All individuals are asked about their ethnic group. The groups obviously differ between countries: the number of groups taken into consideration in the questionnaire varies from 9 in Benin and Niger to 40 groups in Togo. However, in order to harmonize the data and the number of categories considered, the 40 Togolese groups and the 18 Ivorian groups were “reduced” to 6 groups. Non response appears to be the exception with only 665 missing or “Does not know” answers.

2.2. Wage gap decomposition techniques

In the following, we discuss earning equations estimations and present methods that are traditionally used to decompose gender wage gaps. A full decomposition method *à la* Appleton, Hoddinott and Krishnan (1999) is also presented. The application of these methods to decomposing ethnic wage gaps is then discussed.

2.2.1. Earnings determination

Traditional gender earnings decompositions rely on estimations of Mincer-type earnings functions for men and women of the form:

$$\ln w_i = \beta x_i + \varepsilon_i \tag{1}$$

where $\ln w_i$ is the natural logarithm of the observed hourly earnings for individual i , x_i is a vector of observed characteristics, β is a vector of coefficients and ε_i is a disturbance term with an expected value of zero.

Earning functions are first estimated separately for males and females, and also for the different sectors. There is no universally accepted set of conditioning variables that should be included for describing the causes of gender labour market outcomes differentials. Yet, the consensus is that controls for productivity-related factors such as education, labour market experience and marital status should be included. However, it is debatable whether job characteristics, occupation and industry should be taken into account: if employers differentiate between men and women through their tendency to hire into certain occupations, then occupational assignment is an outcome of employer practices rather than an outcome of individual choice or productivity differences.⁵

In this paper, it is not possible to account for the workers' actual experience in the labour market, but only for potential experience which can be viewed as reflecting the 'gross' time that individuals have spent while in the labour force (measured as age minus years of schooling minus six – the legal age at school entry). This is a possible limitation of our study since, as argued in the empirical literature, differences in labour force attachment across gender are important to explain the extent of the gender wage gap. Indeed, measures of women's work experience are particularly prone to errors given their discontinuity in labour market participation (for child bearing and care for instance). Using proxy measures such as potential experience may thus lead to overestimate the amount of experience for females, while it might be a good approximation of true experience for men with higher labour force attachment (Nordman and Roubaud,2009).⁶

Concerns arise over possible sample selection biases in the estimations. Strictly speaking, there are two sources of selectivity bias involved. One arises from the fact that earnings are only observed when people work, and not everyone is working. The second comes from the selective decision to engage in public wage employment rather than private wage employment or the informal sector. Here, we address both issues using Lee's two-stage

⁵ Conversely, one can argue that analyses that omit occupation and industry may underestimate the importance of background and choice-based characteristics on labour market outcomes (Altonji and Blank, 1999).

⁶ Regan and Oaxaca (2006) show that using potential versus actual experience in earnings models is best viewed as a model misspecification problem rather than a classical errors-in-variable framework. Instrumental variable techniques are the traditional approach taken to correct classical measurement error. Then, as underline Regan and Oaxaca (2006), in the absence of actual experience measures, instrumenting potential experience would not solve the model specification problem.

approach to take into account the possible effect of endogenous paid-work participation and sector allocation on earnings (Lee, 1983)⁷. In the first stage, multinomial logit models of individual i 's participation in sector j are used to compute the correction terms λ_{ij} from the predicted probabilities P_{ij} . The different modalities considered in the multinomial logit are: non-paid work participants, public sector workers, formal private sector workers and informal sector workers. A potential problem is that the multinomial logit may suffer from the Independence of Irrelevant Alternatives assumption (IIA), which in most cases is questionable. We performed Hausman-type tests (Hausman and McFadden, 2004) for each city and sector which massively provide evidence that the IIA assumption is not violated, with the exception of the informal sector in Bamako. In Lee's procedure, identification is achieved by the inclusion of additional individual variables in the first stage selection equations which are omitted in the second stage earnings regressions: a set of dummies indicating relationship to the household head, the dependency ratio (number of non working age individuals divided by the total number of individuals in the household), and the household size.⁸ Our assumption is that these variables have arguably no reason to influence earning levels.

2.2.2. Oaxaca and Neumark's traditional earnings decompositions

The most common approach to identifying sources of gender wage gaps is the Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition. In this approach, two separate standard Mincerian log earnings equations are estimated for males and females. The Oaxaca decomposition is:

$$\overline{\ln w_m} - \overline{\ln w_f} = \beta_m (\bar{x}_m - \bar{x}_f) + (\beta_m - \beta_f) \bar{x}_f \quad (2)$$

where w_m and w_f are the means of males and females' earnings, respectively; x_m and x_f are vectors containing the respective means of the independent variables for males and females; and β_m and β_f are the estimated coefficients. The first term on the right hand side captures the earnings differential due to different characteristics of males and females. The

⁷ Following Tunali (1986), an alternative approach would be to employ a sequential selection rule (nested multinomial logit) rather than a combined one. This means controlling for self-selection into the paid-work group and then different endogenous choices between the public, formal private and informal sectors. This technique requires finding a least one variable affecting the decision to enter the paid-work group but not the sector choice in order to achieve identification via the use of restriction exclusion. Unfortunately, in our data, it seems impossible to find variables that may be used in the first stage selection equation and arguably be excluded from a second selection equation of sector allocation.

⁸ Similarly, in the same context of a two-step sectoral selection correction, Appleton et al. (1999) use the proportion of children in the household as an identifying instrument.

second term is the earnings gap attributable to different returns to those characteristics or coefficients.

It can be argued that, under discrimination, males are paid competitive wages but females are underpaid. If this is the case, the male coefficients should be taken as the non-discriminatory wage structure, as in equation (2). Conversely, if employers pay females competitive wages but pay males more (nepotism), then the female coefficients should be used as the non-discriminatory wage structure. Therefore, the issue is how to determine the wage structure β^* that would prevail in the absence of discrimination. This choice poses the well-known index number problem given that we could use either the male or the female wage structure as the non-discriminatory benchmark. While *a priori* there is no preferable alternative, the decomposition can be quite sensitive to the selection made. The literature has proposed different weighting schemes to deal with the underlying index problem. In this paper, we rely on the general decomposition proposed by Neumark (1988) which can be written as follows:

$$\overline{\ln w_m} - \overline{\ln w_f} = \beta^* (\bar{x}_m - \bar{x}_f) + [(\beta_m - \beta^*)\bar{x}_m + (\beta^* - \beta_f)\bar{x}_f] \quad (3)$$

This decomposition can be reduced to Oaxaca's two special cases if it is assumed that there is no discrimination in the male wage structure, i.e. $\beta^* = \beta_m$, or if it is assumed that $\beta^* = \beta_f$. Neumark shows that β^* can be estimated using the weighted average of the wage structures of males and females and advocates using the pooled sample to estimate β^* . The first term is the gender wage gap attributable to differences in characteristics. The second and the third terms capture the difference between the actual and pooled returns for men and women, respectively.

2.2.3 Earnings decompositions with sample selectivity

Neuman and Oaxaca (2004) show that sample selection complicates the interpretation of earnings decompositions. They offer several alternative decompositions, each based on different assumptions and objectives. We use one of them that consist in considering selectivity as a separate component. This technique has the advantage of not calling for any prior hypothesis regarding the links between individual characteristics and selectivity. An additional term in the decomposition measures the contribution of selection effects to the observed gender earnings gap, $\hat{\theta}_m \hat{\lambda}_m - \hat{\theta}_f \hat{\lambda}_f$, where $\hat{\lambda}$ and $\hat{\theta}$ denote respectively the mean

correction term (generalised Mill's ratio) and its estimated coefficient from each regression by sex. Hence, in the full sectoral decomposition that follows, when trying to account for sample selectivity, we will consider the decomposition of offered earnings instead of actual earnings, i.e. earnings net of the selection effects $\hat{\theta}\hat{\lambda}$ (see Reimer, 1983).

2.2.4. A full sectoral decomposition

While the improvement proposed by Neumark's decomposition is attractive, it is not immune from common criticisms of decomposition methods in general. One of them is that, without evidence that employers care only about the proportion of each type of labour employed, it is not clear that the pooled coefficient is a good estimator of the non-discriminatory wage structure. Appleton et al. (1999)'s full sectoral decomposition takes into account sectoral structures differences between genders by using a similar approach to that of Neumark and decomposing the gender earnings gap into three components.

Let \bar{W}_m and \bar{W}_f be the means of the natural logs of male and female earnings and \bar{p}_{mj} and \bar{p}_{fj} be the sample proportions of men and women in sector j respectively. Male and female mean earnings can be written as the sum of sectoral earnings weighted by the proportion of workers in each sector :

$$\bar{W}_m = \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{W}_{mj} \bar{p}_{mj}$$

$$\bar{W}_f = \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{W}_{fj} \bar{p}_{fj}$$

As a result, one can decompose the difference in mean earnings into intrasectoral earnings differences and differences in proportions employed in the different sectors. In order to overcome the index problem, Appleton et al. (1999) assume a sectoral structure that would prevail in the absence of gender differences in the impact of characteristics on sectoral choice. Let \bar{p}_j^* be the proportion of workers in sector j under this assumption. They then decompose the difference in mean earnings such as:

$$\bar{W}_m - \bar{W}_f = \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{p}_j^* (\bar{W}_{mj} - \bar{W}_{fj}) + \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{W}_{mj} (\bar{p}_{mj} - \bar{p}_j^*) + \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{W}_{fj} (\bar{p}_j^* - \bar{p}_{fj})$$

(4)

The first term can be decomposed using the Neumark decomposition presented earlier. The second and third terms can further be decomposed in order to set apart differences arising

from differences in observable characteristics and differences arising from differences in returns to observable characteristics. In order to do so, one can derive the average probability to be employed in a given sector for male and female workers from the estimation of pooled and separate multinomial logit models for men and women. These mean probabilities are denoted by \bar{p}_{mj}^* and \bar{p}_{ff}^* respectively. Embedding the self-selection process in (4), the full decomposition can then be written in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{W}_m - \bar{W}_f = & \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{p}_j^* (\bar{x}_{mj} - \bar{x}_{ff}) \beta_j^* + \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{p}_j^* \bar{x}_{mj} (\beta_{mj} - \beta_j^*) + \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{p}_j^* \bar{x}_{ff} (\beta_j^* - \beta_{ff}) \\ & + \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{W}_{mj} (\bar{p}_{mj}^* - \bar{p}_j^*) + \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{W}_{ff} (\bar{p}_j^* - \bar{p}_{ff}^*) + \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{W}_{mj} (\bar{p}_{mj} - \bar{p}_{mj}^*) + \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{W}_{ff} (\bar{p}_{ff} - \bar{p}_{ff}^*). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

The first three terms are similar to Neumark decompositions of within-sector earnings gaps. The fourth and fifth terms measure the difference in earnings due to differences in distribution of male and female workers in different sectors. The last two terms account for differences in earnings resulting from the deviations between predicted and actual sectoral compositions of men and women not accounted for by differences in characteristics.

2.2.5. Earnings gap decomposition for ethnic groups

Extending decomposition methods developed and traditionally used to analyse possible discrimination against women to the study of earnings differentials between ethnic groups is not straightforward. One of the main problems is related to the definition and measurement of ethnicity: what defines an ethnic group? In developed countries, there exist conflicting views and different traditions regarding the collection of data on ethnic origin: while Anglo-Saxon societies are used to measuring and analysing data on so-called racial or ethnic groups, a number of countries refuse to categorize individuals using ethnic or racial criteria⁹ and, as a result, do not collect statistical data on ethnic origin. In Africa, the notion of ethnicity also raises a number of questions that have been extensively debated among social scientists (see for instance Bayart, 1989). Works by anthropologists have indeed shown that, contrary to a naïve *a priori*, ethnic groups are not characterized by the genetic homogeneity of their members. Depending on countries and contexts, the constitution of ethnic groups appears to be more or less recent and their definition is moving. While some groups have their origin in a common myth and/or ancestor, others only share a common language and culture, and some have been constructed from “outside”, i.e. by other groups, either upon a

⁹ In France, the collection of data on ethnic origin is subject to the authorization of a government body and is not granted systematically. Recently, a survey designed to study racial discrimination in the labour market gave rise to a strong opposition from French public opinion.

migration or invasion event, or through an exogenous categorization constructed and imposed by colonial rulers. Despite their various origins, it is widely admitted that the notion of ethnicity plays a certain role in the social relations of many African countries. There is, for instance, strong evidence of high levels of endogamy, not only in rural areas where ethnic homogeneity is often observed at the local level, but also in urban areas where different ethnic groups usually cohabit. In the past ten years, economists have seized the “ethnic” issue around the question of its impact on development and growth. The seminal paper is Easterly and Levine’s contribution (1997) that concludes that “Africa’s growth tragedy” is in part related to its high level of ethnic diversity, resulting in poor institutional functioning. However, this result is still debated nowadays (see Bossuroy, 2007 for a discussion).

In this paper, we focus on the impact of ethnicity on labour market outcomes measured through earnings. In order to apply the methods developed for the analysis of the gender earnings gap, one is inclined to construct a dichotomous variable identifying either a possibly favoured or discriminated against ethnic group. Data collection on ethnicity at the household or individual level is common in Africa: most household and employment surveys include a variable indicating the ethnic group. However, given the diversity of national contexts, two difficulties arise: the first one is related to identifying *a priori* a discriminated ethnic group: should one consider the majority ethnic group as favoured? Or should one consider instead the group related to the head of state? The second difficulty arises because of our comparative framework: how does belonging to the different groups compare across countries? For instance, if one considers majority ethnic groups in the cities of the *1-2-3 Surveys*, is it the same to be a Mossi in Ouagadougou (76.6 percent of the population) and a Bambara in Bamako (34.0 percent of the population)? Although we do not attempt to answer this question in the paper, we try to consider various aspects of possible ethnic discrimination on urban labour markets while keeping in mind the different national contexts.

3. Results

3.1. A Neumark decomposition of gender and ethnic earnings gaps

In this section, gender and ethnic earnings gaps are analysed using traditional decomposition approaches. As mentioned earlier, in order to apply these methods to decompose the ethnic earnings gap, one is inclined to construct a dichotomous variable identifying either a possibly favoured or discriminated against ethnic group. For that purpose, we identify a majority ethnic group in each city. Descriptive statistics indicate that these majority ethnic groups represent an absolute majority of the capital's population in three countries out of seven.¹⁰ More precisely:

- the Fon represent 60.9 percent of the population of Cotonou (Benin);
- the Mossi represent 78.2 percent of the population in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso);
- the Akan represent 34.2 percent of the population in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire);
- the Bambara represent 34.4 percent of the population of Bamako (Mali);
- the Djerma represent 49.5 percent of the population of Niamey (Niger);
- the Wolof represent 40.4 percent of the population of Dakar (Senegal);
- the Ewe-Mina-Wachi represent 74.2 percent of the population of Lome (Togo).

In six cities out of seven, the majority ethnic group corresponds to the majority group at the national level. The only exception is Niger where the majority ethnic group in the capital is the Djerma while it is the Haoussa at the national level (54 percent of the population).

A first look at earnings gap decompositions based on gender and majority ethnic groups is provided in Table 1 which reports a decomposition of earnings gaps based on Neumark's approach (see section 2.2.2). A number of results are worth emphasizing.

Raw gender earnings gaps are large, significant and vary from 50.0 in Niamey to 79.2 in Abidjan: these figures indicate that females in Niamey (resp. in Abidjan) earn on average 50.0 percent (respectively 20.8 percent) of male earnings.

Gender differences in the distribution of characteristics related to productivity – such as education and experience – usually explain less than half of the raw gender gap in six cities out of seven: Lome is an exception with differences in characteristics explaining almost 55 percent of the gap. Including variables related to the type of occupation decreases somewhat

¹⁰ See Appendix 1 for more details on the majority ethnic group in each country.

the unexplained share of the raw gender gap. This decrease appears to be substantial in Ouagadougou, Abidjan and Lome.

Contrary to the systematic favourable position of men with respect to women, majority ethnic groups do not appear to have a systematic favourable position in the urban labour markets of our sample of countries. It is only in Abidjan and Dakar that the gap appears both significant and favourable for the majority ethnic group: in Abidjan, the Akan earn on average 28.0 percent more than other ethnic groups while in Dakar, the Wolof earn on average 6.8 percent more than other ethnic groups; on the contrary, majority ethnic groups in Ouagadougou, Bamako and Lome earn significantly less on average than other ethnic groups.

Concerning the decomposition of ethnic earnings gaps, results differ markedly. In Abidjan, the results indicate that differences in the distribution of individual characteristics explain more than 85 percent of the gap so that little is left for what could be labelled discrimination (the unexplained share) against non majority ethnic groups. In Dakar, on the contrary, 100% of the gap is left unexplained until job characteristics related to occupation and sector are introduced. In Ouagadougou, where the majority ethnic group (Mossi) receives lower earnings than other groups, the gap is also in large part explained by differences in the distribution of observable characteristics such as education and experience; as a result, the unexplained share is low at 20.0 percent; in Bamako, the unexplained share of the gap against the majority ethnic group (Bambara) is much higher: there, differences in returns to characteristics account for 43.4 percent of the gap (down to 39 percent once occupation status dummies are included in the regressions).

3.2. A full decomposition of the gender earnings gap

It is widely acknowledged that there are at least four types of labour markets in most developing countries: rural (or agricultural), public, formal private and informal. These markets each have their own characteristics, such as job seasonality, uncertainty of demand, nature of contracts and structure of wages and earnings. As a result, gender and ethnic labour allocation between these sectors can be expected to contribute to earnings gaps. Following Appleton et al. (1999) and Nordman and Roubaud (2009), we provide comparable estimates of the size and determinants of gender earnings gaps using the decomposition method described in section 2.2.4. Given that we are analysing urban labour markets, only three types of labour markets are taken into consideration: public, formal private and

informal. Results are reported in Tables 2 and 3, without and with correction for selectivity of participation and sectoral allocation (see section 2.2.3).

Within-sector differences in earnings account for the largest share of the gender gap with contributions ranging from 60.2 percent in Abidjan to 74.8 percent in Cotonou. The remainder can then be attributed to gender differences in proportions of workers in each sector. The positive sum of these three terms for all cities implies that the differences in sectoral locations are more favourable to men than to women. For instance, the gender earnings gap would have been 40 percent smaller respectively in Abidjan if men and women had been equally distributed across the three sectors. This is because fewer women than men are located in the higher paying sectors such as the public and private formal sectors.

Differences attributable to characteristics only account for a relatively small share of the within-sector differences in earnings: their contribution varies from 10 percent in Dakar to 41 percent in Lome (as a share of the contribution of within-sector differences; not shown in the table). Conversely, differences attributable to characteristics account for a very large share of the sectoral location differences between genders: their contribution varies from 65 percent in Dakar to 85 percent in Cotonou and Bamako.

Concerning differences attributable to deviation in male and female returns, their contribution to within-sector differences in earnings are of the same order, indicating that both “discrimination” against women and “nepotism” in favour of men contribute to the gender earnings gap; both “discrimination” against women and “nepotism” in favour of men also contribute to differences in sectoral location but at a much lower level.

Taking into account selectivity leads to analysing the decomposition not of actual earnings but of offered earnings. These are computed using the coefficients of the selection term in the earnings equations (see section 2.2.3). Results in Table 3 show that offered earnings gaps are much higher in Cotonou, Bamako and Dakar, while they are lower in the other cities. Higher earnings gaps when sectoral selectivity is accounted for are not systematically associated with higher contribution of sectoral location differences however. Except in Niamey, within-sector earnings differences remain the main contributor to gender gaps.

Concerning ethnic earnings gaps, our results in Table 4 (without correcting for selectivity) indicate that: In Ouagadougou the gap can almost evenly be attributed to within-sector earning difference (46.7%) and to sectoral location (53.2%). In Abidjan, it is differences in sectoral location that explain the highest share of the gap (86.1 percent) of which 75 percent

are accounted for by differences in characteristics. In Bamako, within-sector differences in earnings account for 77.4 percent of the earnings gap out of which 33.3 percent are attributable to differences in characteristics; both “nepotism” (15.9 percent) and “discrimination” (28.2 percent) significantly contribute to the gap through their contribution to within-sector differences in earnings. On the contrary, sectoral location differences are almost entirely explained by differences in characteristics. In Lome, the gap is also explained by sectoral location differences but, contrary to Bamako, the deviation in the effect of characteristics on location explains a big share of sectoral location differences. Contrary to the results obtained for gender, where sectoral location systematically increases the gap “against” women, it is in some cities the case that sectoral location plays a “compensating” role against observed earnings gaps.

Results reported in Table 5 show that taking into account selectivity leads to reassessing some measures of the gaps. The gap decreases for Ouagadougou, Abidjan and Dakar and increases for Bamako. For these cities, the decomposition results appear however relatively stable. In Lome, the gap is actually reversed, a possible indication that the majority ethnic group is offered on average higher earnings than the other ethnic groups. This result is somewhat puzzling and would require further investigation. For instance, in order to understand the features of earnings negotiations, one would need to know the ethnic group of the employer.

3.3. Ethnic earnings differentials

In this section, we examine earnings differentials between ethnic groups. As mentioned earlier, several ethnic groups can be differentiated in each capital. The highest number of groups is in Bamako (11 groups), followed by Ouagadougou (10 groups), Cotonou, Niamey and Dakar (9 groups) and Abidjan and Lome (6 groups). Figure 1 reports two Herfindhal’s concentration indices for ethnolinguistic fractionalization (ELF) in each country: the first one is computed at the national level while the second is computed at the level of capitals using the *1-2-3 Surveys*. Levels are similar across countries except for Burkina Faso where the ELF index appears to be much lower in the capital than at the country level. This could stem from the fact that the ethnic majority group (Mossi) represents 78.2 percent of the population in Ouagadougou and only 50 percent at the national level. This points to a factor that can explain why majority ethnic groups are not systematically favoured in the labour markets of

our sample: indeed, in the case of Burkina, where Mossi have lower average earnings than other ethnic groups, it could be the case that only the better performing non-Mossi actually “migrate” to the capital. This is consistent with the results of the Neumark decomposition of the ethnic earnings gap in section 3.1. where we find that the gap “against” the Mossi is mainly explained by differences in characteristics.

Coefficients of the dummies indicating each ethnic group in city-level earnings equations regressions are reported in Table 6a. In the first column, ethnic group dummies are the only regressors while a set of usual controls is introduced in the specification reported in the second column (coefficients for these variables are reported in Table 6b). Results show two things: first, there is at least one significant coefficient on ethnic dummies in all the cities of the sample meaning that there exist differences in average earnings between ethnic groups. However, most of these differences diminish and, in some cases, vanish once other observables characteristics are controlled for. In the case of Cotonou, both the Dendi people and the Yoruba appear favoured *ceteris paribus* with respect to the majority ethnic group (Fon), while the Yoa have lower earnings *ceteris paribus* than the Fon. In Ouagadougou, the group of “other mandingues” as well as the Senoufo people are favoured *ceteris paribus* compared to the Mossi. In Abidjan, both the Volta people and the natives from Burkina Faso have lower earnings *ceteris paribus* than the majority ethnic group (Akan). In Bamako, both the Peul and the Sarakole are favoured with respect to the majority ethnic group (Bambara). In Niamey, once control variables are included, only the Haoussa appear less favoured compared to the Djerma. In Dakar, both the Serere and Diola people have lower earnings *ceteris paribus* than the Wolof.¹¹

Overall majority ethnic groups seem not be favoured on the labour market once one controls for productivity related individual characteristics. On the contrary, some minority groups actually have higher earnings *ceteris paribus*. This is the case in Benin, Burkina, and Mali. However, none of the favoured groups seem to be related to the ethnicity of the head of state at the time of the survey.¹²

¹¹ Despite the fact that some earnings differentials hold *ceteris paribus*, one should note that in some cases, the groups considered represent very small shares of the population (see Appendix 2). Consequently, the question of the size of our samples for analysing the characteristics of these groups can be raised. This is one of the reasons why we did not implement decomposition methods at this level of ethnic disaggregation.

¹² Head of state ethnicity at the time of the survey is provided in the dataset put together by Fearon, Kasara and Laitin (2007).

4. Conclusion

In this paper, we analyse the size and determinants of gender and ethnic earnings gaps in seven West African capitals. The study is based on a unique dataset taken from an original series of urban household surveys in West Africa, the *1-2-3 Surveys* conducted in seven major WAEMU cities (Abidjan, Bamako, Cotonou, Dakar, Lome, Niamey and Ouagadougou) from 2001 to 2002. Analysing gender and ethnic earnings gaps in an African context raises a number of important issues that our paper attempts to address.

First, international comparisons of earnings gaps are still scarce in Africa. Our surveys use identical methodologies and virtually identical questionnaires in each city, making for totally comparable results. Second, we address the issue of sample selectivity due to endogenous sector choices (public, private formal and informal sectors) as gender and ethnic labour allocation between these sectors can be expected to contribute to earnings gaps. Following Appleton et al. (1999), we then provide comparable estimates of the size and determinants of gender and ethnic earnings gaps using decomposition methods that address the sectoral allocation issue.

The results show that gender earnings gaps are large in all the cities of our sample and that gender differences in the distribution of characteristics usually explain less than half of the raw gender gap. By contrast, majority ethnic groups do not appear to have a systematic favourable position in the urban labour markets of our sample of countries and observed gaps are small relative to gender gaps. Moreover, none of the minority “favoured” groups seem to be related to the ethnicity of the head of state at the time of the survey.

Whatever the “sign” of the gap, the contribution of differences in the distribution of individual characteristics varies markedly between cities. Taking into account differences in sectoral locations in the decomposition of gender earnings gaps provides evidence that within-sector differences in earnings account for the largest share of the gender gap and that the differences in sectoral locations are always more favourable to men than to women. By contrast, concerning ethnic earnings gaps, the full decomposition indicates that sectoral location sometimes plays a “compensating” role against observed earnings gaps. Looking at finer levels of ethnic disaggregation confirms that ethnic earnings differentials are systematically smaller than gender differentials.

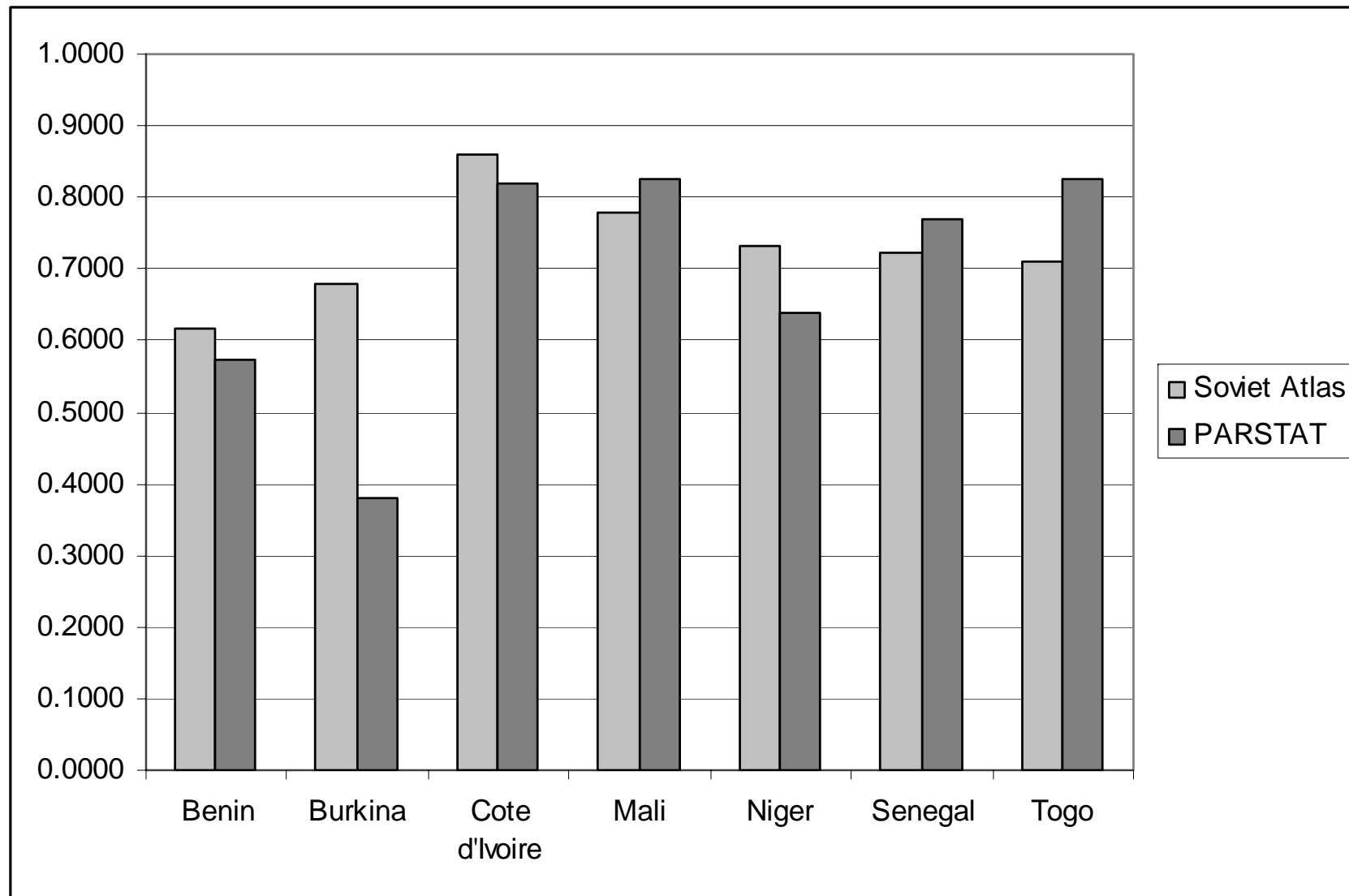
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Figure 1: Herfindhal concentration indices of Ethnolinguistic fractionalization (ELF)



Source: Fearon (2003) and PARSTAT 1-2-3 Surveys, authors' calculations.

Table 1: Neumark decompositions of gender and ethnic earnings gaps

	Raw Earnings Gap	Without Occupation or Sector Dummies			With Occupation Dummies			With Occupation and Sector Dummies		
		Explained	Unexpl.	Unexpl. (%)	Explained	Unexpl.	Unexpl. (%)	Explained	Unexpl.	Unexpl. (%)
Gender earnings gaps										
Cotonou	0.779***	0.339	0.439	56.4	0.355	0.423	54.3	0.361	0.418	53.7
Ouagadougou	0.754***	0.248	0.506	67.1	0.305	0.449	59.5	0.305	0.448	59.5
Abidjan	0.792***	0.337	0.455	57.4	0.396	0.396	50.0	0.420	0.372	47.0
Bamako	0.736***	0.301	0.435	59.2	0.283	0.452	61.5	0.306	0.430	58.4
Niamey	0.500***	0.196	0.304	60.9	0.197	0.303	60.6	0.195	0.305	61.0
Dakar	0.556***	0.194	0.361	65.0	0.203	0.353	63.5	0.246	0.309	55.7
Lome	0.787***	0.427	0.360	45.7	0.481	0.306	38.9	0.482	0.305	38.7
Ethnic earnings gaps										
Cotonou	-0.015	0.040	-0.055	369.7	0.048	-0.062	421.5	0.050	-0.065	441.1
Ouagadougou	-0.537***	-0.430	-0.107	20.0	-0.463	-0.074	13.8	-0.461	-0.076	14.2
Abidjan	0.279***	0.225	0.054	19.4	0.253	0.027	9.5	0.255	0.025	8.8
Bamako	-0.182***	-0.103	-0.079	43.4	-0.109	-0.073	40.1	-0.111	-0.071	39.0
Niamey	0.019	-0.034	0.053	278.8	-0.022	0.041	216.8	-0.024	0.043	226.7
Dakar	0.068**	-0.001	0.069	101.9	0.024	0.044	65.2	0.022	0.046	68.1
Lome	-0.113***	-0.055	-0.059	51.7	-0.066	-0.047	41.3	-0.081	-0.032	28.3

Source: PARSTAT 1-2-3 Surveys, authors' calculations.

Note: * significant at 10%; ** significant at 5%; *** significant at 1%.

Raw Gender Earnings Gaps are positive by construction because they are computed as the difference between a "high group" and a "low group". In our sample of countries, females always correspond to the "low group". This is not the case for the majority ethnic group which corresponds to the "high group" in Abidjan, Niamey and Dakar and to the "low group" in Cotonou, Ouagadougou, Bamako and Lome. This explains why gaps are negative for these last four cities.

Table 2: Full decomposition of the gender earnings gap without correcting for selectivity

	Cotonou		Ouagadougou		Abidjan		Bamako		Niamey		Dakar		Lomé	
Actual earnings gap	0.779	%	0.754	%	0.792	%	0.736	%	0.500	%	0.556	%	0.787	%
= Log(Male earn.) - Log(Female earn.)	***		***		***		***		***		***		***	
Difference due to within-sector differences in earnings attributable to:														
Characteristics	0.166	21.3	0.092	12.3	0.099	12.5	0.133	18.1	0.060	12.1	0.043	7.7	0.240	30.5
Deviation in male returns	0.238	30.6	0.210	27.9	0.192	24.3	0.199	27.0	0.110	22.1	0.143	25.8	0.191	24.2
Deviation in female returns	0.178	22.9	0.250	33.1	0.185	23.4	0.209	28.4	0.164	32.7	0.161	28.9	0.122	15.5
Sub-total	0.582	74.8	0.552	73.3	0.476	60.2	0.541	73.5	0.334	66.9	0.347	62.4	0.553	70.2
Difference due to differences between sectoral location attributable to:														
Characteristics	0.167	21.4	0.170	22.5	0.245	30.9	0.165	22.4	0.126	25.1	0.136	24.4	0.182	23.2
Deviation in effect of characteristics on male location	0.010	1.3	0.010	1.3	0.022	2.7	0.009	1.3	0.012	2.5	0.028	5.0	0.018	2.3
Deviation in effect of characteristics on female location	0.020	2.5	0.023	3.0	0.049	6.2	0.021	2.8	0.027	5.5	0.045	8.2	0.033	4.2
Sub-total	0.197	25.2	0.203	26.8	0.316	39.8	0.195	26.5	0.165	33.1	0.209	37.6	0.233	29.7

Source: PARSTAT 1-2-3 Surveys, authors' calculations.

Table 3: Full decomposition of the gender earnings gap accounting for selectivity

	Cotonou		Ouagadougou		Abidjan		Bamako		Niamey		Dakar		Lomé	
Offered earnings gap	1.060	%	1.237	%	0.970	%	2.050	%	0.885	%	1.361	%	0.857	%
= Log(Male earn.) - Log(Female earn.)	***		***		***		***		***		***		***	
Difference due to within-sector differences in earnings attributable to:														
Characteristics	0.205	19.3	0.144	11.7	0.107	11.1	0.198	9.7	0.074	8.4	0.053	3.9	0.250	29.2
Deviation in male returns	0.343	32.3	0.423	34.2	0.204	21.0	0.729	35.6	0.245	27.6	0.408	30.0	0.163	19.0
Deviation in female returns	0.334	31.5	0.490	39.6	0.235	24.2	0.956	46.6	0.355	40.2	0.547	40.2	0.009	1.0
Sub-total	0.882	83.1	1.057	85.5	0.546	56.3	1.883	91.9	0.674	76.2	1.008	74.1	0.422	49.2
Difference due to differences between sectoral location attributable to:														
Characteristics	0.154	14.5	0.151	12.2	0.319	32.9	0.150	7.3	0.162	18.3	0.212	15.6	0.331	38.6
Deviation in effect of characteristics on male location	0.012	1.1	0.004	0.3	0.042	4.4	0.015	0.7	0.013	1.5	0.065	4.8	0.032	3.8
Deviation in effect of characteristics on female location	0.013	1.3	0.024	2.0	0.062	6.4	0.002	0.1	0.036	4.1	0.076	5.6	0.072	8.4
Sub-total	0.179	16.9	0.179	14.5	0.423	43.7	0.167	8.1	0.211	23.9	0.353	26.0	0.435	50.8

Source: PARSTAT 1-2-3 Surveys, authors' calculations.

Table 4: Full decomposition of the ethnic earnings gap without correcting for selectivity

	Cotonou		Ouagadougou		Abidjan		Bamako		Niamey		Dakar		Lomé	
Actual earnings gap	-0.015	%	-0.537	%	0.279	%	-0.182	%	0.019	%	0.068	%	-0.113	%
= Log(Maj. groups earn.) – Log(Min. group earn.)			***		***		***				**		***	
Difference due to within-sector differences in earnings attributable to:														
Characteristics	0.014	-96.0	-0.156	29.0	0.004	1.5	-0.061	33.3	-0.049	-258.9	0.021	31.6	0.009	-8.0
Deviation in maj. group returns	-0.039	262.9	-0.076	14.2	0.011	3.9	-0.029	15.9	0.019	102.8	0.034	49.9	-0.023	19.9
Deviation in maj. group returns	-0.027	179.3	-0.019	3.5	0.024	8.5	-0.051	28.2	0.024	125.1	0.051	75.3	-0.009	7.8
Sub-total	-0.052	346.2	-0.251	46.7	0.039	13.9	-0.141	77.4	-0.006	-31.0	0.106	156.8	-0.023	19.7
Difference due to differences between sectoral location attributable to:														
Characteristics	0.018	-120.0	-0.250	46.5	0.181	64.7	-0.050	27.4	-0.008	-41.8	-0.009	-13.7	-0.015	13.2
Deviation in effect of char. on maj. group location	0.012	-78.1	-0.028	5.2	0.017	5.9	0.003	-1.7	0.017	88.0	-0.012	-17.0	-0.053	47.2
Deviation in effect of char. on min. group location	0.007	-48.2	-0.008	1.5	0.043	15.5	0.006	-3.1	0.016	84.9	-0.018	-26.0	-0.022	19.8
Sub-total	0.037	-246.3	-0.286	53.2	0.241	86.1	-0.041	22.6	0.025	131.1	-0.039	-56.7	-0.090	80.2

Source: PARSTAT 1-2-3 Surveys, authors' calculations.

Table 5: Full decomposition of the ethnic earnings gap accounting for selectivity

	Cotonou		Ouagadougou		Abidjan		Bamako		Niamey		Dakar		Lomé	
Offered earnings gap	0.021	%	-0.403	%	0.254	%	-0.224	%	-0.003	%	0.048	%	0.127	%
= Log(Maj. groups earn.) – Log(Min. group earn.)			***		***		***						***	
Difference due to within-sector differences in earnings attributable to:														
Characteristics	0.013	64.1	-0.091	22.7	0.020	-7.8	-0.042	18.8	-0.043	1335.8	0.022	45.9	0.021	16.6
Deviation in maj. group returns	-0.036	-169.6	-0.029	7.1	0.016	-6.3	-0.042	18.5	0.000	14.2	0.020	42.5	0.110	86.9
Deviation in maj. group returns	-0.024	-113.4	0.021	-5.1	0.001	-0.4	-0.078	34.6	-0.012	376.7	0.042	88.3	0.090	70.8
Sub-total	-0.047	-218.9	-0.099	24.7	0.037	-14.5	-0.162	71.9	-0.055	1726.7	0.084	176.7	0.221	174.3
Difference due to differences between sectoral location attributable to:														
Characteristics	0.029	140.8	-0.266	66.1	0.213	84.2	-0.080	35.8	-0.016	492.6	-0.009	-19.0	-0.010	-7.9
Deviation in effect of char. on maj. group location	0.023	109.6	-0.028	6.9	0.027	10.6	0.004	-2.0	0.025	-770.0	-0.007	-15.2	-0.030	-23.5
Deviation in effect of char. on min. group location	0.014	68.6	-0.010	2.4	0.050	19.8	0.013	-5.7	0.043	-1349.2	-0.020	-42.5	-0.055	-42.9
Sub-total	0.066	319.0	-0.304	75.4	0.290	114.6	-0.063	28.1	0.052	-1626.6	-0.036	-76.7	-0.095	-74.3

Source: PARSTAT 1-2-3 Surveys, authors' calculations.

Table 6a: Ethnic Earnings Differentials

Cotonou	Raw	OLS
Fon	ref.	ref.
Adja	-0.077 (0.039)*	0.035 (0.031)
Dendi	0.373 (0.135)***	0.467 (0.107)***
Yoa	-0.498 (0.147)***	-0.213 (0.116)*
Yoruba	0.193 (0.051)***	0.102 (0.040)**
Other	0.033 (0.062)	0.009 (0.049)

Ouagadougou	Raw	OLS
Mossi	ref.	ref.
Bissa	0.379 (0.095)***	0.093 (0.070)
Bobo	0.561 (0.165)***	0.168 (0.120)
Other Manding	0.555 (0.092)***	0.136 (0.068)**
Dagari	0.474 (0.155)***	0.083 (0.113)
Gourmantche	0.781 (0.178)***	0.197 (0.130)
Gourounsi	0.613 (0.099)***	0.073 (0.073)
Senoufo	1.335 (0.203)***	0.370 (0.149)**
Peul	0.552 (0.137)***	0.161 (0.100)
Other	0.498 (0.117)***	0.109 (0.086)
Missing	-0.141 (0.209)	-0.130 (0.152)

Abidjan	Raw	OLS
Akan	ref.	ref.
Krou	0.020 (0.061)	-0.025 (0.045)
Mande N	-0.268 (0.054)***	-0.013 (0.042)
Mande S	-0.112 (0.090)	-0.035 (0.067)
Volta	-0.300 (0.069)***	-0.086 (0.052)*
Native of Burkina	-0.414 (0.045)***	-0.124 (0.037)***
Missing	-0.333 (0.250)	0.084 (0.186)

Bamako	Raw	OLS
Bambara	ref.	ref.
Malinke	0.057 (0.052)	0.039 (0.043)
Peul	0.220 (0.054)***	0.081 (0.044)*
Sarakole	0.245 (0.060)***	0.182 (0.049)***
Songhai	0.436 (0.104)***	0.110 (0.085)
Dogon	-0.042 (0.091)	0.009 (0.074)
Bobo	0.006 (0.107)	-0.069 (0.087)
Senoufo	0.398 (0.093)***	0.051 (0.077)
Arab	0.450 (0.149)***	0.078 (0.122)
Haoussa	0.303 (0.102)***	0.126 (0.083)
Missing	0.109 (0.115)	0.126 (0.094)

Niamey	Raw	OLS
Djerma	ref.	ref.
Haoussa	-0.004 (0.044)	-0.068 (0.035)*
Peul	0.167 (0.083)**	0.041 (0.065)
Touareg	-0.237 (0.089)***	-0.102 (0.070)
Gourma	0.542 (0.285)*	0.240 (0.223)
Other	-0.143 (0.075)*	-0.046 (0.059)
Missing	-0.259 (0.199)	-0.075 (0.156)

Dakar	Raw	OLS
Wolof	ref.	ref.
Lebou	0.032 (0.063)	0.034 (0.050)
Serere	-0.271 (0.046)***	-0.190 (0.036)***
Diola	-0.088 (0.068)	-0.103 (0.054)*
Manding	0.009 (0.081)	-0.020 (0.064)
Sarakole	0.117 (0.101)	-0.054 (0.080)
Mandjag	-0.073 (0.102)	-0.005 (0.081)
Peul	-0.016 (0.044)	-0.032 (0.035)
Missing	0.075 (0.065)	-0.024 (0.052)

Lome	Raw	OLS
Ewe-Mina-Wachi	ref.	ref.
Akposso-Akebou	0.121 (0.136)	-0.003 (0.111)
Ana-Ife	0.126 (0.107)	0.005 (0.087)
Kabye-Tem	0.058 (0.055)	0.001 (0.045)
Para-Gourma-Akan	0.068 (0.092)	0.028 (0.075)
Other Togolese	-0.042 (0.191)	0.062 (0.156)
Other Non Togolese	0.297 (0.081)***	0.276 (0.066)***

Standard errors in parentheses

* significant at 10%

** significant at 5%

*** significant at 1%

Table 6b: Ethnic Earnings Differentials – Control Variables

	Cotonou	Ouagadougou	Abidjan	Bamako	Niamey	Dakar	Lome
Women = 1	-0.495 (0.026)***	-0.525 (0.028)***	-0.507 (0.028)***	-0.464 (0.030)***	-0.314 (0.031)***	-0.370 (0.025)***	-0.425 (0.033)***
Education	0.046 (0.007)***	0.100 (0.008)***	0.028 (0.008)***	0.045 (0.009)***	0.077 (0.009)***	0.066 (0.007)***	0.030 (0.010)***
Education ²	0.004 (0.000)***	0.004 (0.001)***	0.007 (0.000)***	0.004 (0.001)***	0.004 (0.001)***	0.003 (0.000)***	0.006 (0.001)***
Potential experience	0.038 (0.004)***	0.067 (0.004)***	0.051 (0.004)***	0.062 (0.004)***	0.052 (0.004)***	0.066 (0.003)***	0.052 (0.004)***
Potential experience ²	-0.039 (0.006)***	-0.073 (0.006)***	-0.049 (0.007)***	-0.065 (0.006)***	-0.047 (0.005)***	-0.073 (0.005)***	-0.057 (0.007)***
Married = 1	0.043 (0.026)*	0.160 (0.031)***	0.120 (0.029)***	0.093 (0.031)***	0.067 (0.032)**	0.059 (0.028)**	0.032 (0.032)
Constant	-2.725 (0.060)***	-3.549 (0.061)***	-2.568 (0.066)***	-3.013 (0.063)***	-3.086 (0.069)***	-2.769 (0.053)***	-3.311 (0.070)***
Observations	4209	3774	4060	3928	3295	4929	3600
R-squared	0.39	0.50	0.47	0.35	0.40	0.37	0.34

Standard errors in parentheses

* significant at 10%; ** significant at 5%; *** significant at 1%

Appendix 1: Ethnicity in West African countries (1-2-3 Surveys)

Country	Majority Ethnic Group in the PARSTAT sample	Soviet Atlas ELF	PARSTAT ELF
Benin	Fon is a major West African ethnic and linguistic group in the country of Benin or Dahomey, and southwest Nigeria, made up of more than 2,000,000 people. The Fon language is the main language spoken in Southern Benin, and is a member of the Gbe language group. Closely related cultures include the Ewe, Adja and Guin peoples. The Fon are said to originate from Tado, a village in south east Togo, near the border with Benin.	0.6182	0.5742
Burkina	Mossi (sing. Moaaga) are a people in central Burkina Faso, living mostly in the villages of the Volta River Basin. The Mossi are the largest ethnic group in Burkina Faso, constituting 40% of the population, or about 6.2 million people. The other 60% of Burkina Faso's population is composed of more than 60 ethnic groups, mainly the Gurunsi, Senufo, Lobi, Bobo, and Fulani. The Mossi speak the More language.	0.6783	0.3814
Côte d'Ivoire	The Akan people are a linguistic group of West Africa. This group includes the Akuapem, the Akyem, the Ashanti, the Baoulé, the Anyi, the Brong, the Fante and the Nzema peoples of both Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.	0.8593	0.8204
Mali	The Bambara (Bamana in their own language, or sometimes Banmana) are a Mande people living in west Africa, primarily in Mali but also in Guinea, Burkina Faso and Senegal. They are considered to be amongst the largest Mande ethnic groups, and are the dominant Mande group in Mali, with 80% of the population speaking the Bambara language, regardless of ethnicity.	0.7783	0.8254
Niger	The Djerma , also spelled Zerma, Zarma, Dyerma, or Zaberma, are a people of westernmost Niger and adjacent areas of Burkina Faso and Nigeria. The Djerma language is one of the Songhai languages, a branch of the Nilo-Saharan language family. The Djerma are considered to be a branch of the Songhai people.	0.7326	0.6401
Senegal	The Wolof are an ethnic group found in Senegal, The Gambia, and Mauritania. In Senegal, the Wolof form an ethnic plurality with about 40% of the population self-identifying as Wolof. They are also the majority in the region stretching from Saint-Louis in the north, Kaolack in the south, and Dakar to the west. However, there are few Wolof who reside in Casamance.	0.7228	0.7695
Togo	The Ewe people are a people of southeastern Ghana, Togo and Benin. They speak the Ewe language and are related to other speakers of Gbe languages as the Fon and the Adja of Togo and Benin. They have come to their present territory from the east; their original homeland is traced to Oyo in western Nigeria.	0.7107	0.8254

Appendix 2: Number of working individuals in the sample with non zero earnings.

	Public sector		Private sector		Informal sector	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Cotonou	296	115	387	142	1,389	1,881
Ouagadougou	404	191	260	88	1,534	1,305
Abidjan	221	85	679	177	1,358	1,543
Bamako	336	126	389	71	1,462	1,558
Niamey	427	174	326	95	1,316	978
Dakar	356	147	738	245	1,760	1,815
Lome	238	78	250	60	1,252	1,727

Cotonou	Sample size	Weighted %
Fon	2,475	60.3
Adja	889	21.5
Dendi	56	1.3
Yoa	47	1.1
Yoruba	447	9.9
Other	295	5.9

Niamey	Sample size	Weighted %
Djerma	1,542	46.6
Haoussa	1,044	32.1
Peul	199	6.1
Touareg	170	5.4
Kanouri	41	1.2
Gourma	15	0.5
Other	253	7.2
Missing	31	1.0

Ouagadougou	Sample size	Weighted %
Mossi	2,921	77.2
Bissa	155	4.1
Bobo	50	1.0
Other Manding	168	4.2
Dagari	57	1.4
Gourmantche	43	1.2
Gourounsi	142	4.1
Senoufo	33	0.8
Peul	73	1.8
Other	101	3.1
Missing	31	1.4

Dakar	Sample size	Weighted %
Wolof	2,008	38.1
Lebou	337	9.1
Serere	747	16.0
Diola	278	5.8
Manding	191	3.9
Sarakole	118	2.4
Mandjag	115	2.3
Peul	822	16.0
Other	313	6.3

Abidjan	Sample size	Weighted %
Akan	1,278	32.4
Krou	444	11.5
Mande N	631	16.3
Mande S	171	4.4
Volta	328	8.2
Native of Burkina	1,188	26.9
Missing	20	0.5

Lome	Sample size	Weighted %
Ewe-Mina-Wachi	2,582	71.8
Akposso-Akebou	66	1.8
Ana-lfe	109	3.1
Kabye-Tem	467	13.1
Para-Gourma-Akan	148	4.2
Other Togolese	33	0.8
Other Non Togolese	195	5.2

Bamako	Sample size	Weighted %
Bambara	1,382	35.7
Malinke	660	16.9
Peul	602	15.6
Sarakole	445	11.1
Songhai	123	2.9
Dogon	163	4.4
Bobo	115	3.5
Senoufo	155	3.7
Arab	57	1.0
Haoussa	128	2.8
Missing	98	2.3