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**What Determines the Reservation Wage?  
Theory and Some New Evidence from German Micro Data**

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**Abstract**

This paper constructs a simple theoretical model that relates the reservation wage of unemployed workers to macroeconomic factors--including aggregate and local unemployment rates, generosity of the unemployment compensation system and characteristics of the wage structure--as well as individual-specific determinants, including proxies for general and specific human capital, length of unemployment spell and alternative income sources. The predictions of the model are tested using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel.

The longitudinal aspect of the dataset provides an interesting perspective on how reservation wages change over time and how they correlate with accepted wage offers for workers who make the transition from unemployment to employment. The findings have important policy implications as well, since they shed some light on the disincentive effects of the German tax and transfer system for the labor supply and employment decisions of unemployed workers at different points of the skill/offer wage distribution.

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*Keywords:* Reservation wage; labor supply disincentives; offer wage distribution; unemployment and employment determinants.

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## I. Introduction

The reservation wage is an important concept for modeling certain key aspects of labor market dynamics. In particular, the theory of optimal job search typically implies the reservation wage property in the context of structural models of job search behavior. The reservation wage is also a concept that has relevance for modeling labor supply decisions, through its influence on transitions from nonemployment to employment.

In this paper, I provide an empirical analysis of the determinants of reservation wages using individual data from the German Socio Economic Panel (GSOEP). One of the questions included in the survey explicitly asks unemployed workers about their reservation wage. In addition, the GSOEP is particularly well suited to the analysis of reservation wages since it includes a rich set of individual- and household-specific characteristics. In this paper, I also exploit another strength of the GSOEP, which is the availability of detailed retrospective information on employment and income histories for individual workers. Further, the availability of consecutive reservation wage observations and of accepted wages that can be compared with stated reservation wages in previous years enables an indirect test of whether the reservation wage data bear a sensible relationship to actual economic behavior. Previous studies of reservation wages have been based on far less comprehensive information and have generally been limited to either making indirect inferences about reservation wages (e.g., Kiefer and Neumann, 1979; Blau, 1991) or using one or two years of data with little retrospective information about employment or income histories (e.g., Lancaster and Chesher, 1983; Jones, 1988; Hui, 1991; Franz, 1982).

The results in this paper are of analytical interest but have considerable policy relevance as well. In the final part of the paper, I develop an empirical procedure that enables me to use the reservation wage data to shed some light on one of the main problems facing the West German labor market—the high rate of nonemployment among low-skilled workers. In particular, a comparison of offer wages and reservation wages at different points

of the skill distribution suggests that there exist labor supply rigidities at the low end of the skill/wage distribution. In tandem with the results of an earlier paper (Prasad, 2000), I argue that the results indicate the need for comprehensive reforms to influence both labor demand and labor supply at the low end of the skill/wage distribution in order to solve the German unemployment problem.<sup>1</sup>

## II. Theoretical Framework

In this section, I discuss the main elements of a simple theoretical framework that is relevant for the analysis of reservation wages. To conserve space, I do not present the details of the formal model (which is in an extended version of the paper available upon request) but only discuss the implications that are relevant for the empirical work.

Standard (and somewhat stripped down) models of job search imply that the reservation wage is a function of the offer wage distribution, the arrival rate of job offers and search costs. Search costs could, of course, be determined by individual-specific factors as well as institutional factors such as the features of the unemployment compensation (UC) system.<sup>2</sup> The availability of detailed individual- and household-specific information is, thus, crucial for analyzing the determinants of reservation wages. For instance, conditional on other characteristics, an agent with alternative sources of income and/or other employed family members would tend to have lower search costs. Further, agents in households with

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<sup>1</sup> Freeman and Schettkat (2000), by contrast, argue that the German unemployment problem is mainly a consequence of deficient aggregate demand.

<sup>2</sup> The UC system in Germany has two components. The first (Arbeitslosengeld) has the characteristics of a traditional unemployment insurance system, with a well-defined termination period and a replacement rate determined by earnings on the last job. The second component (Arbeitslosenhilfe), that follows after unemployment insurance benefits have expired, is unemployment assistance. This component involves a lower replacement rate, is means-tested and is of longer duration. For the purposes of the analysis in this paper, I do not draw a distinction between these components unless explicitly stated otherwise.

higher levels of wealth might have better access to financial instruments to insure against labor income risk and, would, therefore tend to have higher reservation wages.

Macroeconomic determinants are likely to play a role as well in determining reservation wages. Aggregate demand conditions (and, hence, the derived demand for labor) could influence both the overall offer wage distribution and the arrival rate of job offers and, therefore, affect reservation wages. The general equilibrium effects are, however, unclear. For instance, a higher local unemployment rate could drive down reservation wages as job offers become scarcer. On the other hand, since it presumably implies a lower real wage (if real wages are procyclical) and a lower probability of employment for workers with low levels of human capital, a drop in job search intensity could result from such workers' intertemporal optimization decisions and workers at the margin could drop out of the labor force altogether, driving up the observed distribution of reservation wages.

Another potential determinant of the reservation wage is unemployment duration. As discussed in more detail below, one would expect the reservation wage to decline over time on account of wealth effects and human capital depreciation. However, a problem that complicates estimation with the unemployment duration variable is that the reservation wage and the duration of unemployment could be endogenously determined. Optimal search theory, under the assumption of a stationary reservation wage, predicts a *positive* correlation between these variables. That is, workers with higher reservation wages tend to have longer unemployment spells. To test this prediction, and to obviate the problem of endogeneity, I use a reduced-form instrumental variables estimation approach suggested by Jones (1988) to study the relationship between reservation wages and unemployment duration.

### **III. Data**

This section contains a brief description of the data used in the empirical analysis. The dataset is the public use version of the GSOEP. I restrict my analysis to residents of

West Germany between the ages of 17 and 55 who, at the time of the survey, were non-employed and reported that they were looking for a full-time job.<sup>3</sup> The distinction between non-employment and unemployment is, of course, an important one and will be considered carefully in the analysis below.

The survey question that is intended to elicit the reservation wage is: “How much would the net pay have to be for you to consider accepting a job that was offered to you now?” The possible responses are a figure for “DM per month” or “Don’t know, it depends.” Note that the reservation wage concept here is net monthly earnings.<sup>4</sup> The reservation wage question was included in the survey in the years 1987-89, 1992-94 and 1996-97. Summary statistics for the main variables used in the analysis are shown in Table 1. All nominal variables are deflated by the CPI (1992Q4=100) for West Germany. Observations with left-censored unemployment spells were excluded from the analysis. It should also be noted that the unemployment duration variable reflects an ongoing rather than completed spell of unemployment as of the date of the interview.

A potential concern is the non-response rate for the reservation wage question, which could indicate that respondents have trouble interpreting this question. The non-response rate on this question among those registered as unemployed was about 25 percent. This could influence the analysis in this paper if there was a systematic pattern in the non-response rates; in other words, if non-response was correlated with any of the individual-specific

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<sup>3</sup> For workers older than 55, the reservation wage may be determined by strategic considerations about the timing of retirement and exit from the labor force that are difficult to capture in the reduced-form framework used in this paper. For recent entrants into the labor market, reported reservation wages might also be less reliable, especially for first-time job applicants who may have very limited knowledge about the offer wage distribution. Below, I examine the sensitivity of the results in this paper to the exclusion of younger workers.

<sup>4</sup> An important issue here is whether, as suggested by this question, job offers stipulate both the hourly wage and a contracted number of hours per month. An alternative possibility is that employers offer an hourly wage and workers then decide how much labor, in terms of hours per week or month, they want to supply at that wage rate. It seems more plausible, especially in the German context, that job offers take the form of a combined package of wages and hours that determines total monthly earnings.

characteristics. To examine this, I generated a dummy variable for non-response to the reservation wage question and ran probit regressions (separately for men and women) of this dummy on a vector of individual characteristics. The regressions had very low explanatory power (pseudo Rsquareds of about 0.01) and none of the estimated coefficients were statistically significant. Thus, I conclude that, although the high rate of non-response is a potential concern, there is at least no obvious relationship between observed characteristics and the pattern of non-response.<sup>5</sup>

One interesting issue is whether the reported reservation wage data bear any relationship to actual economic behavior. For instance, are accepted wage offers correlated with stated reservation wages in a reasonable manner? A particular strength of the GSOEP is that, unlike previous data sets that have been used to analyze reservation wages, the panel aspect of this dataset provides a means for answering this question.<sup>6</sup> For workers who report earnings on a full-time job in the year after a reservation wage observation, I compute the differential between accepted (time  $t+1$ ) and reservation wages (time  $t$ ). The top panel of Figure 1 plots this differential as a percent of the reservation wage. Comfortingly, a majority of the observations are clustered around zero. Observations that have a positive differential--to the right of the zero line--indicate accepted wage offers that are greater than stated reservation wages. As for the observations in the left tail of the distribution, a negative

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<sup>5</sup> Needless to say, there could still be a correlation between *unobserved* individual-specific characteristics and the non-response pattern. It is worth noting that the non-response rate is substantially lower than in most other studies that have used reservation wage data.

<sup>6</sup> Lancaster and Chesher (1983) and Gorter and Gorter (1993) test the predictions of stationary search models using datasets that contain information for unemployed workers on the reservation wage as well as the conditional *expected* wage in the next employment. The dataset used by Jones (1988) also has both of those questions but he finds that, in that dataset, the responses to the two questions are not in general mutually consistent. The availability of data on actual *accepted* wage offers obviates many of the problems associated with the interpretation of the expected wage variable.

differential can be rationalized on the grounds of a declining reservation wage over time for a given individual, conditional on a number of other determinants.

To examine whether reservation wages change over time, I analyze those individuals for whom the dataset contains two consecutive observations on the reservation wage. This change, expressed as a percent of the first reservation wage observation, is shown in the bottom panel of Figure 1. Whether reservation wages would be expected to increase or decrease over time is, of course, not entirely clear. On the one hand, wealth effects and the cost of depreciating human capital should drive down the reservation wage over time. On the other hand, the reservation wage could actually increase over time simply as a result of increases in overall wage (offer) levels. Further, increasing knowledge over time about the true offer wage distribution could result in changes in the reservation wage. Nevertheless, one would not a priori expect to see substantial changes in reservation wages from year to year for a given individual. Indeed, although there are a few observations with large increases or decreases, most of the mass of the distribution is around zero.<sup>7</sup>

Overall, I interpret the results in this section as indicating that the reservation wage data in the GSOEP are reliable and have the potential to provide a reasonable means of testing the determinants of reservation wages and, by extension, to shed light on certain aspects of labor supply.

#### **IV. Main Results**

I first examine the determinants of reservation wages using a reduced-form specification that relates each individual's reservation wage to a vector of individual-specific

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<sup>7</sup> I regressed the change in the (log) reservation wage on a variety of individual-specific characteristics, duration of unemployment spell, and total and regional unemployment rates but could not detect any systematic relationships between any of these variables and changes in the reservation wage. Kiefer and Neumann (1979) find (indirect) evidence that reservation wages decline significantly with duration.

and macroeconomic characteristics. For this part of the analysis, the data are treated as a repeated set of cross-sections.<sup>8</sup>

OLS estimates of the baseline specification are presented in the first column of Table 2. For workers with a university degree, reservation wages are more than 30 percent higher than for workers with only general schooling, controlling for other characteristics. For workers with an apprenticeship or vocational training, however, reservation wages are statistically similar to those of workers with general schooling. The reservation wage declines with age until about age 53 and then rises with age, consistent with older workers having higher reservation wage thresholds as they approach retirement. As expected, married workers and those with children tend to have lower reservation wages. Rather surprisingly, having the status of household head exerts a positive effect on reservation wages.

Individuals with higher personal and household income are more likely to be able to afford to wait and search for jobs with higher wages and would, therefore, be expected to have higher reservation wages. Indeed, variables that proxy for alternative sources of income, including total net household income and a dummy for receipt of unemployment compensation, are positively correlated with reservation wages.

The aggregate unemployment rate is positively correlated with the reservation wage. Conditional on the aggregate unemployment rate, the regional unemployment rate (expressed as a deviation from the aggregate unemployment rate) is negatively correlated with the reservation wage.<sup>9</sup> Entering unemployment rates in the specification implies a particular, and

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<sup>8</sup> Unfortunately, the fact that there are breaks in the availability of the reservation wage data makes it difficult to exploit fully the panel aspect of the dataset to control for unobserved individual-specific heterogeneity. Further, sample attrition over time would imply a substantially smaller number of observations than in the cross-sectional approach adopted in this paper.

<sup>9</sup> The aggregate unemployment referred to here is for West Germany only. Note that, in general equilibrium, higher reservation wages and higher unemployment would tend to be positively correlated. The reduced-form specification used here can be viewed as being motivated by a partial equilibrium framework, in which an individual worker takes total and regional unemployment rates as given.

possibly restrictive, assumption about the effects of the overall macroeconomic environment on reservation wages. A simple alternative is to replace unemployment rates with time dummies. Although the estimated time effects do not have an economic interpretation, they should, in principle, soak up all the time-specific variation in reservation wages that are common to all individuals in a given time period. Column 2 of Table 2 reports the estimated specification with the time dummies (which were jointly significant at the 5 percent level). In this more general specification, the coefficients on the individual-specific variables remain very similar to those in column 1.

Table 2 (column 3) also reports results restricted to the sub-sample of workers who, in the month of the interview, report that they are registered with the unemployment office and are also actively engaged in job search. Most of the main results are preserved for this sub-sample, although the coefficients on the age variables and unemployment rates are no longer significant.<sup>10</sup>

#### *IV.1 Unemployment Duration and the Reservation Wage*

As discussed earlier, the duration of unemployment spell is likely to be correlated with the reservation wage, although different theories make different predictions about the sign of this relationship. Hazard models are generally preferable to linear regression models when analyzing unemployment duration. However, one problem in this context is that the unemployment spell duration is measured as of the interview date and, by construction, there are no exits into employment in the period when the reservation wage is observed. Hence, I

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<sup>10</sup> It would also be interesting to analyze how reservation wages are correlated with past earnings (see, e.g., Kaspar, 1967). Preliminary results (not reported here) indicate a positive conditional correlation between these variables. In further work, I intend to examine the sensitivity of these results to the industry and other characteristics related to each worker's last employment preceding the current spell of unemployment.

first estimate reduced-form OLS regressions for unemployment duration with the reservation wage as a dependent variable.

The OLS estimates are presented in the first two columns of Table 3. Interestingly, the conditional correlation between these variables appears to be significantly negative. At an intuitive level, this seems reasonable since, for the reasons cited earlier, one might expect the reservation wage to decline as the non-employment spell duration lengthens.

As noted by Jones (1989), however, the reservation wage and unemployment duration are endogenously determined. One way to obviate this problem is to instrument for the reservation wage using variables that, except through their effects on search costs and, hence, on the reservation wage, are unlikely to have further effects on unemployment duration. Jones (1989) uses unemployment insurance benefits as an instrument. Since the GSOEP is a richer dataset than the one used by Jones, I have a number of potential instruments available. Following some preliminary analysis for instrument relevance, I chose a small set of instruments that worked best—dummies for marital status, presence of kids and receipt of unemployment compensation.

The results from IV regressions are presented in the third column of Table 3. Remarkably, the coefficient on the log reservation wage turns positive and significant. Again, using time dummies rather than aggregate and regional unemployment rates makes little difference to the results (column 4). The results were quite similar across alternative choices of instrument sets. However, it should be noted that the positive correlation found here is predicted by optimal search theory under the assumption of a stationary reservation wage. The evidence in the previous section suggested that this assumption is not necessarily borne out in the data. Hence, the interpretation of the positive correlation between reservation wages and unemployment duration as being consistent with optimal search theory requires some caution and deserves further scrutiny in future work.

## **V. The Relationship between Skill Levels and Reservation Wages**

In this section, I examine further the relationship between imputed skill levels and reservation wages. This analysis can be interpreted as providing some indirect evidence on labor supply, based on reservation wage data, at different points of the skill/wage distribution. This is of particular relevance for shedding light on potential determinants of rigidities in labor supply at the low end of the skill/wage distribution that could have implications for understanding the German unemployment problem.

The approach I adopt can be broken down into the following steps: (i) estimate annual selection-corrected Mincerian wage equations for full-time employed workers; (ii) based on those estimates, generate a predicted offer wage for each unemployed worker conditional on observed characteristics; and (iii) construct the differential between reservation and (predicted) offer wages for each worker who reports a reservation wage.

Net monthly earnings are used as the dependent variable in the regression for the first step. Since the observed wage distribution could be a biased measure of the offer wage distribution, an issue of particular importance for this analysis, an expanded sample including nonemployed workers is used to estimate and correct for selectivity bias using Heckman's (1979) two-step procedure. It should also be kept in mind that observed worker characteristics explain only about 30-40 percent of the cross-sectional variation in wages (this fraction seems to be almost a law of nature and is similar across most data sets).

In Figure 2, I plot the reservation-offer wage differential against the offer wage, which may be considered a comprehensive measure of skill. The interesting observation from this figure is that there is a clear negative relationship between the reservation-offer wage differential and skill level. For most skilled workers--those whose offer wages lie to the right of the median wage (the vertical line in the chart)--the differential between reservation and offer wages is in fact negative. For these workers, the value of employment is apparently high enough that they are willing to accept employment even slightly below their market

offer wage. This could be because of the much greater value of skilled workers' human capital investments and the associated higher absolute amount of depreciation of that capital as unemployment duration increases. By contrast, for a large fraction of low-skill workers, reservation wages appear significantly higher than offer wages, and this relationship is stronger at lower skill levels.

In an earlier paper (Prasad, 2000), I have argued that the inability of the German wage structure to adjust to an increase in the relative demand for skilled labor has led to substitution of capital and skilled labor for unskilled labor and, consequently, rising nonemployment rates for unskilled workers in Germany. A possible concern with that analysis is that the offer wage distribution could in fact be truncated from below on account of high reservation wages. Thus, the apparent rigidity of the wage structure might be reflective not of institutional constraints imposed by the wage bargaining structure but rigidities in labor supply caused, perhaps, by other factors such as the UC system.

The cluster of observations below the zero line for labor force participants below the median wage and even close to the left tail of the skill distribution suggests that this issue is not of great empirical relevance. There appear to be enough low-skill workers willing to work at wages below their conditional offer wages if jobs were available. Thus, labor demand is apparently one of the problems inhibiting better employment outcomes for low-skill workers. Nevertheless, the large number of observations above the zero line suggests that labor supply is also a problem and that measures to influence labor demand alone would have a relatively small effect since a large number of unskilled workers are not willing to work at the going wage.

Regression results (not reported here) confirmed the existence of a strong negative relationship between the reservation-offer wage differential and education level.<sup>11</sup> This differential initially declines with age but then turns around at about 47 years of age. The differential is positively related to household net income and, more importantly, to the availability of unemployment compensation. This latter result suggests that the system of unemployment compensation appears to play a role in driving up the reservation wages of many low-skill workers and in limiting their incentives to accept job offers at their respective conditional offer wages.<sup>12</sup>

## **VI. Conclusions**

This paper has provided a detailed empirical analysis of the determinants of reservation wages among unemployed workers in West Germany. An interesting, although tentative, result is that there appear to be significant labor supply rigidities at the low end of the skill/wage distribution, attributable in part to the generous UC system (and perhaps also to other factors such as high effective marginal tax rates). A key policy conclusion that emerges from this and my previous work is that comprehensive reforms that influence both labor demand (by allowing for more flexibility in the dispersion of wages) and labor supply (by changing the disincentives for seeking employment) at the low end of the skill/wage distribution could be crucial for solving the structural problem of high nonemployment rates for low-skill workers in West Germany.

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<sup>11</sup> The regression results reported in this section were based on OLS specifications (for the sample of unemployed workers who report a reservation wage) with the reservation-offer wage differential as the dependent variable and a set of regressors that included education dummies, age and its square, real household net income, year dummies and dummies for gender, citizenship and receipt of unemployment compensation.

<sup>12</sup> Jaeger (1999) has also argued that the high effective marginal tax rates faced by workers at low income levels deter the acceptance of job offers in low earnings ranges.

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Table 1. Summary Statistics

	Mean	Std. dev.
Log reservation wage (net monthly earnings)	7.33	0.54
Unemployment duration (months)	17.3	23.43
General schooling	0.38	0.48
Apprenticeship	0.36	0.48
Vocational training	0.18	0.39
University degree	0.08	0.27
Age	36.38	9.42
Age Squared	1412.18	75.74
Male	0.37	0.48
Married	0.68	0.47
Household head	0.42	0.49
Kids	0.59	0.49
Home ownership	0.3	0.46
Other employed person in household	0.65	0.48
Log net household income	7.87	0.56
UI benefits/assistance (dummy)	0.25	0.43
Number of observations:		
1987:	441	1992: 331
1988:	408	1993: 309
1989:	356	1994: 333
		1996: 270
		1997: 311
		Total: 2759

Notes: Nominal variables are deflated by the CPI (1991Q4=100) for West Germany

Table 2. Determinants of Reservation Wage

Dependent Variable—Log Reservation Wage				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Apprenticeship	-0.025 (0.018)	-0.032 (0.018)	0.022 (0.023)	0.022 (0.022)
Vocational Training	0.024 (0.022)	0.021 (0.022)	0.078* (0.027)	0.078* (0.027)
University Degree	0.299* (0.031)	0.291* (0.031)	0.327* (0.041)	0.326* (0.040)
Age	-0.025* (0.008)	-0.023* (0.008)	0.007 (0.009)	0.010 (0.009)
Age <sup>2</sup> /100	0.023* (0.010)	0.020* (0.010)	-0.010 (0.011)	-0.014 (0.011)
Male	0.499* (0.019)	0.502* (0.020)	0.340* (0.022)	0.334* (0.022)
Married	-0.090* (0.022)	-0.085* (0.022)	-0.033 (0.024)	-0.026 (0.024)
Household Head	0.132* (0.020)	0.119* (0.020)	0.168* (0.025)	0.172* (0.025)
Kids	-0.061* (0.020)	-0.065* (0.020)	0.004 (0.024)	0.000 (0.023)
Home Ownership	-0.020 (0.019)	-0.018 (0.018)	-0.015 (0.025)	-0.007 (0.025)
Other Emp. Person(s) in Household	-0.177* (0.022)	-0.155* (0.022)	-0.174* (0.024)	-0.157* (0.024)
Log Net Household Income	0.155* (0.019)	0.141* (0.019)	0.172* (0.022)	0.156* (0.022)
UI Benefits/Assistance	0.075* (0.020)	0.085* (0.020)	0.055* (0.020)	0.096* (0.022)
Unemployment Rate	0.017* (0.007)	--	0.008 (0.009)	--
Regional Unemployment Rate	-0.009* (0.003)	--	-0.001 (0.004)	--
Year Dummies	--	Yes	--	Yes
Adjusted Rsquared	0.429	0.440	0.398	0.425
Nobs.	2759	2759	1093	1093

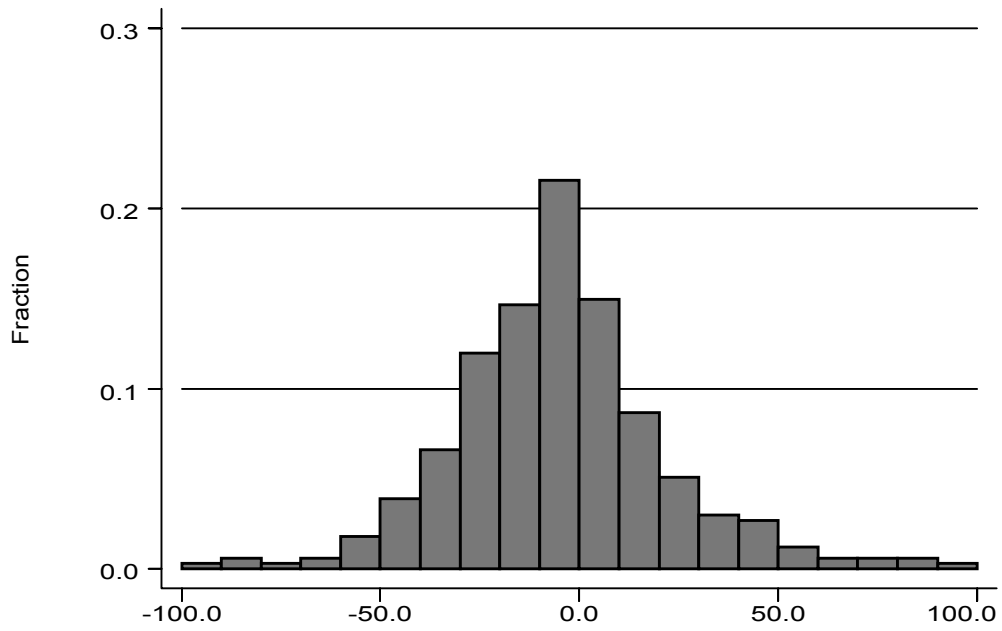
Notes: Excluded education dummy is General Schooling. The regressions in columns 3 and 4 are limited to the sub-sample of labor force participants who are registered as unemployed and are engaged in job search in the month of the interview. Standard errors are reported in parentheses. An asterisk indicates statistical significance at the 5 percent level.

Table 3. Determinants of Unemployment Duration

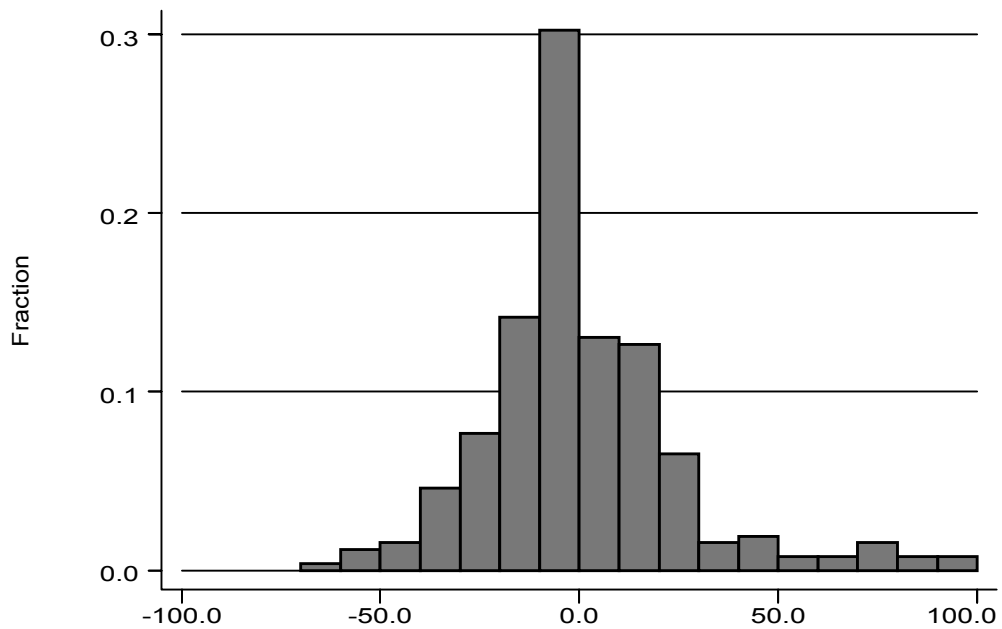
Dependent Variable—Log Unemployment Duration (months)				
	OLS	OLS	IV	IV
Log Reservation Wage	-0.694* (0.148)	-0.687* (0.153)	1.816* (0.868)	2.207* (0.917)
Apprenticeship	-0.451* (0.115)	-0.438* (0.117)	-0.564* (0.141)	-0.537* (0.146)
Vocational Training	-0.241 (0.137)	-0.264 (0.139)	-0.500* (0.184)	-0.518* (0.187)
University Degree	-0.256 (0.214)	-0.280 (0.217)	-1.328* (0.442)	-1.461* (0.452)
Age	-0.028 (0.044)	-0.018 (0.045)	-0.056 (0.052)	-0.066 (0.056)
Age <sup>2</sup> /100	0.001 (0.052)	0.001 (0.053)	0.001 (0.063)	0.001 (0.067)
Male	0.347* (0.115)	0.355* (0.118)	-0.710 (0.383)	-0.876* (0.408)
Citizen	-0.199 (0.106)	-0.141 (0.107)	-0.091 (0.130)	-0.079 (0.132)
Unemployment Rate	-0.053 (0.052)	--	-0.082 (0.062)	--
Regional Unemployment Rate	0.091* (0.021)	--	0.084* (0.025)	--
Year Dummies	--	Yes	--	Yes
Adjusted Rsquared	0.116	0.092	--	--
Nobs.	750	750	750	750

Notes: Standard errors are reported in parentheses. An asterisk indicates statistical significance at the 5 percent level.

# Fig. 1. The Reservation Wage

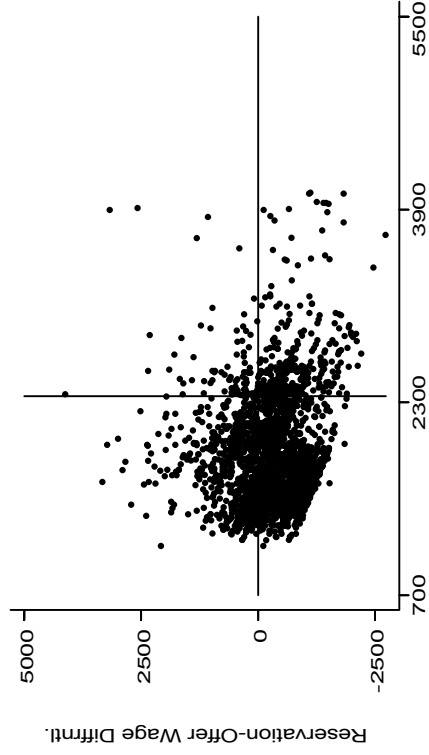


Accepted Earnings Minus Resvn. Earnings as % of Resvn. Earnings

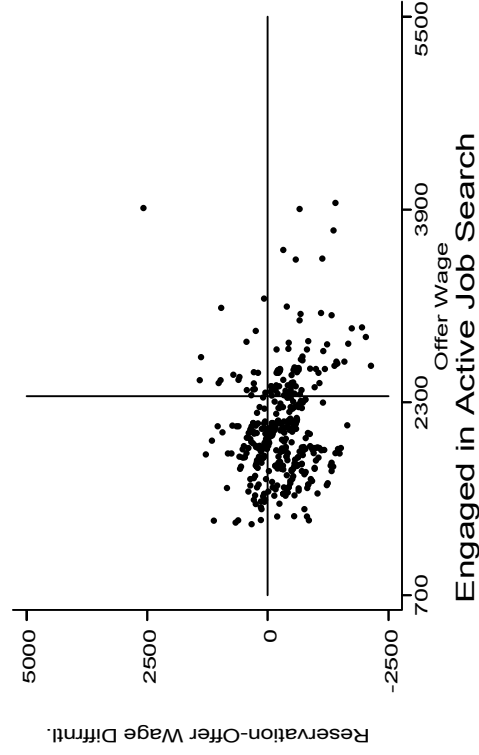


Change in Resvn. Earnings as % of Resvn. Earnings

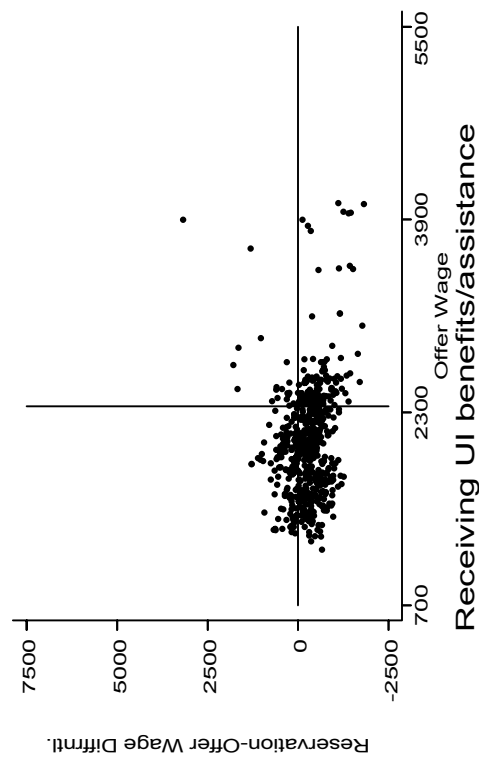
Fig. 2. Differential between (Real) Reservation and Offer Wages



All Unemployed Workers Reporting Reservation Wage



Engaged in Active Job Search



Receiving UI benefits/assistance