How does decentralized minimum wage setting affect employment and informality? The case of Indonesia^{*}

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Abstract

The Indonesian labour market is characterized by widespread and growing informality (defined as non-salaried work). To what extent can the growth in informality be attributed to a sharp increase in the real value of the minimum wage since 2001, when minimum-wage setting was decentralized to the provincial governments? To answer this and related questions we use survey data on the labour market, on household income and expenditure and on the industrial sector to construct a district-level dataset spanning the period 1996 to 2004. The effects of changes in the minimum wage on unemployment, formal-sector employment and the incidence of informality in urban areas are estimated by fixed effects with a Seemingly Unrelated Regression estimator. We find that an increase in the ratio of the minimum to the mean wage is associated with a net increase in employment: a rise in informal-sector employment more than compensates for job losses in the formal sector.

Keywords: Indonesia, minimum wage, informality, employment, unemployment

JEL codes: J23, J31, J64

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1 Introduction

Indonesia is a very interesting case for empirically testing the impact of minimum-wage legislation on employment and informality. The country went through a process of fiscal decentralization in 2001 that, among other things, devolved minimum-wage setting responsibilities to the provinces and local governments. Devolution was followed by a sharp increase in the real value of the minimum wage to about 65% of the median wage in 2004, far exceeding labour productivity gains. Previous empirical literature suggests that this minimum-wage hike is among the main culprits for persistent unemployment since the 1997-98 financial crisis (SMERU, 2001; Suryahadi *et al.*, 2003).

It is not easy to gauge empirically the effects of changes in the minimum wage on labourmarket outcomes. Job losses tend to be stronger the higher the minimum wage in relation to average earnings and the sharper its increase over time. But other labour market characteristics, such as the prevalence of informality, defined in this paper in terms of non-salaried work, which accounted for close to 70% of urban employment in 2004, are likely to also play a part. To shed light on this issue, we constructed a dataset using survey data on the labour market (*Sakernas*), household earnings and expenditure (*Susenas*) and the industrial sector (SI, *Survei Industri*) for 1996-2004, thereby spanning the pre- and post-decentralization periods. In particular, we investigate whether or not - and, if so, the extent to which - an increase in the minimum-to-mean wage ratio drives urban workers out of the formal sector and into informality. This displacement effect would be consistent with the predictions of standard dual economy models of labour market segmentation (Welch, 1976; Gramlich, 1976; Mincer, 1976; Brown, Gilroy and Kohen, 1982).

This study contributes to the existing literature in two main ways: first, we build a panel using the local governments, rather than the provinces, as the units of observation, while all previous literature focuses on provincial data (Islam and Nazara, 2000; Rama, 2001; Suryahadi *et al.*, 2003). Second, to our knowledge, this is the first paper to estimate jointly the effects of the minimum wage on formal-sector employment, informality and unemployment using seemingly unrelated (SUR) techniques. Previous empirical work for Indonesia and other developing countries have estimated the effect of the minimum wage on labour market outcomes separately. In doing so, they ignore the interdependencies that exist among these outcomes in response to changes in the minimum wage. Our estimating strategy therefore accounts for the presence of such interdependencies.

Our main finding is that an increase in the relative value of the minimum wage is associated with higher informality and lower formal sector employment, which is in line with previous empirical evidence for Indonesia. Also, an increase in the minimum-to-mean wage is associated with a decrease in "queuing unemployment", a phenomenon that takes place when individuals faced with a job loss prefer to remain unemployed while "queuing" for a formal-sector job, instead of working informally. A more interesting finding is perhaps that a minimum-wage hike is associated with a net increase in total (formal and informal) employment: the increase in informal-sector employment more than offsets the corresponding loss of jobs in the formal sector. This finding is consistent with the "lighthouse effect", described by Neri, Gonzaga and Camargo (2001) in the case of Brazil, which we also find for Indonesia, whereby informal-sector earnings rise in tandem with the minimum wage, thus attracting inactive workers into the labour market.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews the literature on the impact of the minimum wage on employment in both developed and developing countries. Section 3 describes the data used in the empirical analysis, discusses labour-market trends and summarizes the main institutional features of minimum wage setting in Indonesia. Section 4 elaborates on the estimating strategy and reports the empirical findings for the entire working-age population and, separately, for males and females. Section 5 concludes.

2 Literature Review

Minimum-wage legislation is meant to protect vulnerable workers by ensuring that low pay is consistent with the satisfaction of basic living standards. Nevertheless, it can be argued that, to the extent that the minimum wage destroys jobs, it harms, rather than protects, workers whose attachment to the labour force is weak. If the minimum wage is set above its market clearing level, job losses are likely, because it induces a shift in labour demand away from unskilled to skilled labour, and, where possible, from the formal to the informal sector.

2.1 Developed countries

Neoclassical theory suggests that, in a perfectly competitive labour market with homogeneous labour and full compliance with minimum wage legislation, setting the minimum wage above its market clearing level would be equivalent to a negative labour demand shock, which would lead to job losses (Stigler, 1946). The magnitude of the corresponding disemployment effect depends on the wage elasticity of labour demand and the elasticity of substitution between skilled and unskilled labour. However, in a non-competitive environment, the minimum wage may have a positive, rather than negative, effect on employment. This is especially the case where firms have discretion in wage setting ("monopsonistic employer") or if employers set wages above their equilibrium level to induce workers to be more productive (Rebitzer and Taylor, 1995).

Empirical studies have not reached a consensus on the predictions of the neoclassical model. The empirical literature has focused on developed countries, in particular the United States and Europe (see Dolado *et al.*, 1996, and Brown, 1999, for surveys). The first generation of studies (surveyed by Brown Gilroy and Cohen, 1982) used time-series techniques and found the expected negative relationship between the minimum wage and employment, in particular for teenagers, whose attachment to the labour force is particularly tenuous. However, the time-series approach was criticized subsequently on the grounds that it does not allow for appropriately disentangling the effects of the minimum wage on employment from those of unobserved changes in macroeconomic conditions.

To overcome these difficulties, a second generation of empirical studies relied predominantly on survey-based data. This literature finds much weaker evidence of a disemployment effect associated with the minimum wage. A few longitudinal studies show that vulnerable individuals, such as youths, are more likely to be unemployed after a rise in the statutory minimum wage (Neuman and Wascher, 1995; Currie and Fallick, 1996; Bazen and Marimoutou, 1997). But in many cross-sectional studies the estimated employment elasticity of the minimum wage is statistically insignificant or even positive (Card, 1992; Card and Kruger, 1995; Neuman and Wascher, 1997; Bazen and Skourias, 1997; Burkhauser, Couch and Wittenburg, 2000; Neuman and Wascher, 2004). A positive employment elasticity would be consistent with the prediction of non competitive models.

2.2 Developing countries

The literature on how the minimum wage affects employment in developing country is rather limited. The conventional theoretical framework is that of a dual economy, where the formal sector behaves as in the neoclassical model (*i.e.* employment falls in response to a minimumwage hike), and minimum-wage provisions do not apply in the informal sector (Welch, 1976; Gramlich, 1976; Mincer, 1976; Brown, Gilroy and Kohen, 1982). In this setting, an increase in the minimum wage reduces employment in the formal sector and increases informality, because the displaced workers from the formal sector are absorbed into the informal sector. The net employment effect depends on the elasticity of labour supply (because workers may drop out of the labour force, instead of seeking an informal-sector job) and demand and the size of the informal sector. The bulk of empirical studies available to date use Latin American data. As in the case of developed countries, evidence of a discernible negative effect of minimum-wage hikes on employment is mixed. For example, Bell (1997) reports a strong disemployment effect for Colombia in the 1980s, when the real value of the minimum wage rose substantially, but not for Mexico, on the basis of industrial and employment survey data for each country. Maloney and Nuñez (2004) also find a negative employment effect in both the formal and the self-employed sectors in Colombia. Bosch and Manacorda (2007) find no effect for the overall employment rate, although some workers who had previously been employed in the informal sector are shown to find jobs in the formal sector. Their results are nevertheless not robust econometrically and fail to control for evolving macroeconomic conditions. Evidence is also available for Costa Rica. Gindling and Terrell (2007) report a negative employment effect for formal-sector, but El Hamidi and Terrell (2002) find a positive employment effect for formal-sector workers and no effect for the self-employed on the basis of household survey data, although the authors do not control for other determinants of employment or the presence of interactions between formal- and informal-sector employment.

The case of Brazil is instructive of the need to take wage setting in the informal sector into account when estimating the impact of the minimum wage on employment. Using household survey data, Neri, Gonzaga and Camargo (2001) show that the minimum wage truncates the earnings distribution in the informal sector, but not in the formal sector, as predicated by standard dual economy models. To some extent, this effect is also observed in Mexico on the basis of household survey data (Fairris *et al.*, 2005). These findings suggest that the interactions between the formal and informal sectors in response to changes in the minimum wage may be more complex in practice than in theory. Based on employment survey data, Lemos (2006) finds no evidence of an adverse employment effect associated with the minimum wage in the formal and informal sectors, while Foguel, Ramos and Carneiro (2001) report a negative effect in the formal sector and a positive effect in the informal sector on the basis of time-series data.

2.3 The case of Indonesia

There is a small literature on Indonesia using pooled provincial data to evaluate the response of formal- and informal-sector employment to changes in the minimum wage. Alatas and Cameron (2003) studied the impact of the minimum wage on total employment during 1990-96 using industrial survey data. They used the difference-in-difference approach of Card and Krueger (1995) to exploit variations in the level of the minimum wage between the provinces of Jakarta and West Java. Their estimated disemployment effect is small, if at all significant, and depends on firm type and size. Islam and Nazara (2000) also report very weak evidence in favour of the disemployment hypothesis. By contrast, the results presented in SMERU (2001) point to a negative elasticity for total urban employment, which is larger for females than males, youths than older workers, and among lower skilled individuals.

Rama (2001) uses pooled industrial survey data at the provincial level to estimate the impact of the minimum wage on formal-sector employment during 1988 94. His findings suggest that doubling the minimum wage leads to a 0-5% decrease in formal-sector employment. An increase in the minimum wage is also shown to lead to a rise (fall) in employment in large (small) firms. In a different context, Bird and Manning (2002) use employment survey data to estimate the impact of minimum-wage increases on the allocation of employment between the formal and the informal urban sectors. They regressed the ratio of informal-to-formal sector employment on the real minimum wage for a pool of 20 provinces during 1990-2000. Their findings suggest that employment shifted towards the informal sector after the 1997-98 financial crisis.

3 An overview of the Indonesian labour market and minimum wage provisions

3.1 The data

3.1.1 Data sources

Our work is based on different surveys of individuals, households and industrial firms available from the Indonesian Statistics Bureau (*Badan Pusat Statistik*, BPS). Our main data source is the National Labour Force Survey (*Sakernas*), which started to be collected in 1976 and focuses on the socio-economic and labour-market characteristics of individuals and households. *Sakernas* data are representative at the local jurisdiction rural-urban level. Annual waves of *Sakernas* cannot be treated as a panel, but rather as large-scale repeated cross-sections. We focused on five waves (1996, 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004), including an average of 204 thousand individuals per wave (a minimum of 99 thousand individuals were surveyed in 1998 and a maximum of 275 thousand individuals were surveyed in 2002).

Employment status is reported in *Sakernas* as follows. Each household member belonging to the working-age population¹ is classified as inactive, employed or unemployed depending

¹The working-age population is defined as those aged at least 10 years until 1997 and at least 15 years from

on his/her status during the week prior to data collection.² Employed individuals are classified as salaried workers (employees), employers, self-employed or family/unpaid workers. Information on earnings is available only for salaried workers.

The Sakernas classification allows for a definition of informality based on employment status. Of course, there is no universally accepted definition; in some countries, informality is measured on the basis of compliance with social security legislation. In others, it is defined according to a worker's labour market status and occupation. Since a definition of informality based on social security coverage is unfeasible for Indonesia, in our baseline definition we treat as informal-sector workers all individuals who are self-employed, employers or family/unpaid workers. Thus, in our baseline definition, only salaried workers are considered to work in the formal sector. This definition is consistent with that used in previous empirical literature for Indonesia (surveyed above) and by BPS. Nevertheless, to test the robustness of our findings, we also re-estimated the baseline regressions using an alternative definition of labour informality, which treats all agricultural workers as informal, regardless of whether they are salaried workers or not. Based on Sakernas data, 14 and 20% of salaried workers in 1996 and 2004, respectively, declared to be working in agriculture. According to this alternative definition, the formal sector includes non-agricultural salaried workers only.

Since Sakernas does not include information on earnings for non-wage employment, we used the National Socio-Economic Survey (Susenas) to compute a proxy for informal-sector earnings. Susenas is an annual multi-purpose repeated cross-section survey that contains information on socio-economic, labour, demographic and health status characteristics of around 200 thousand households (over 900 thousand individuals). The core questionnaire is supplemented every year by a specific-purpose module covering about 60 thousand households on a topic that is covered at regular intervals. Information is available in the core module at the individual level and in the specific-purpose module at the household level. We focused on the "household income and expenditure" module, which is surveyed every three years. This module contains information on non-wage income at the household level (*i.e.* total household income from non-wage agricultural/non-agricultural activities). We used the information available for 1996, 1999, 2002 and 2005 to construct a proxy for district-level non-wage income.

Finally, we used data from the Industrial Survey (SI, Survei Industri) to compute a

^{1998.} In our analysis we restricted the sample to individuals aged 15-65 years throughout the sample period. 2 All individuals who were working during the previous week (or only temporarily out of work despite having

a job) were classified as workers. We treated respondents as unemployed if they declared to be out of work and to be looking for a job.

measure of district-level labour productivity. SI is an annual panel survey of all manufacturing establishments with twenty or more employees, or about 22 thousands establishments per year during our period of analysis. We used information available for 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004.

3.1.2 Construction of district-level indicators

Our empirical analysis puts emphasis on local governments, rather than provinces, individuals or households, as the units of observation. Local governments can be regencies (*kabupaten*) or cities (*kota*). The main differences between these jurisdictions are related to demographic and economic structure, rather than administrative hierarchy: regencies tend to be larger in area than cities, and non-agricultural activities are typically more prevalent in cities. However, there are rural and urban areas in both regencies and cities. In what follows, we use the term "district" more generally to refer to both regencies and cities. The districts have their own administrative and legislative bodies, and decentralization since 2001 has put them at the helm of service delivery, especially in health care and education.

Changes in Indonesia's administrative structure over the years poses considerable challenges for the computation and comparability of district-level data. In 2004 Indonesia was divided into 33 provinces, 349 regencies and 91 cities. Between 1996 and 2004, the province of East Timor became independent and 7 new provinces and 146 new districts were created by splitting the existing ones. In order to construct our district-level panel, we matched the districts surveyed in *Sakernas* during 1996-2004 using the official district codes published by BPS.³ Whenever a district was split into two or more new regencies/cities during 1996 and 2004, and only one of these new jurisdictions kept its original name, we considered the new regencies/cities all together as a unique observation and computed the relevant indicators for the years after the split by population-averaging the data across the new districts. Based on this matching procedure, and focusing on the districts with non-zero urban population, we obtained an unbalanced panel of 293 districts for five years, or about 1151-1114 observations across specifications.

3.2 Labour-market trends

Before turning to the estimations, basic labour-market indicators are reported in Table 1. The labour-force participation, employment, unemployment and informality rates were computed on the basis of individual-level *Sakernas* data for 1996 and 2004 (the indicators are

³Available from http://www.bps.go.id/mstkab/index.html.

available for the intermediate years upon request).

The indicators show that labour-force participation has been fairly stable over time at about two-thirds of individuals aged at least 15 years. Participation is higher in rural than urban areas, reflecting the tendency for all household members to work in family plots. In addition, labour supply is higher for males than females and tends to rise with educational attainment.

Labour demand patterns are comparable to those of labour supply. Employment tends to be higher for males than females, for residents of rural areas than urban dwellers and among prime-age individuals than youths and elderly workers. As for unemployment, it is particularly high for youths, workers with secondary education and women. It increased substantially during 1996 2004, albeit from a small base, for older workers and for the least educated individuals (*i.e.* those with no schooling). To a certain extent, high unemployment among the workers who would otherwise be best equipped to find a job in the formal sector (*i.e.* those with tertiary education) suggests that these individuals may not be willing to work in the informal sector. When faced with a job loss, they may prefer to wait for a formal-sector job, instead of working informally, so long as they can support themselves and their families in the meantime, a phenomenon that is often referred to as "queuing unemployment".⁴

Finally, labour informality is widespread, at about 70% of the employed population in 2004. Informality is less widespread among men than women, workers living in urban than rural areas, and among prime-age and younger individuals. Unlike participation and employment in the formal sector, informality declines with educational attainment.

⁴The unemployment rates reported in Table 1 are comparable over time, because the same methodology is used for both 1996 and 2004. This is not the case of the statistics reported by BPS, which are affected by a methodological change in 2001. The new definition includes individuals who are preparing to launch a new business and those who are not in the labour force but willing to work. Inclusion of these discouraged job seekers is thought to account for a large share of the increase in unemployment after 2001 (Sugiyarto *et al.*, 2006).

	Labour Force	Employment	Unemployment	Informal Employees (non-salaried workers)
	% of the Po	pulation 15+	% of the Labour Force	% of total Employment
1996	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		,, or the hastar rorte	, o or coccar Employmon
Total	66.1	62.6	5.3	65.4
By gender	0011	0210	0.0	0001
Males	82.7	78.9	4.6	61.1
Females	49.9	46.7	6.5	72.5
By age	10.0	10.1	0.0	12.0
15-24	50.9	42.6	16.4	57.7
25-54	76.5	74.7	2.4	64.1
55-64	66.1	65.9	0.3	83.3
65+	40.3	40.2	0.2	89.8
By residence	10.0	10.2	0.2	00.0
Rural	71.7	69.4	3.2	77.2
Urban	58.8	53.8	8.6	45.7
By education	00.0	00.0	0.0	10.1
No schooling	67.6	67	0.9	82
Primary	67.5	65.7	2.7	74.2
Lower secondary	51.4	47.9	6.9	62.6
Upper secondary	71.2	61.4	13.8	34.2
Tertiary	86.3	76.3	11.6	12.4
2004	00.0	10.0	11.0	12.1
Total	65	60.7	6.7	69.6
By gender	00	00.7	0.7	03.0
Males	83.5	78.6	5.8	67.9
Females	46.7	42.9	5.8 8.2	73
By age	40.7	42.3	0.2	10
15-24	50	39	22.1	60.1
25-54	74.2	71.8	3.2	68.5
25-64 55-64	63.5	63.1	0.6	88.3
65+	39.7	39.6	$0.0 \\ 0.2$	95.5
By residence	53.1	53.0	0.2	50.0
Rural	69.8	67.1	3.9	86.4
Urban	60.1	54.2	3.9 9.9	48.7
By education	00.1	04.2	5.9	40.1
No schooling	63.5	62.8	1.2	92.2
0	63.5 66.6	$\begin{array}{c} 62.8\\ 64.9\end{array}$		
Primary			2.6 7 E	84.5
Lower secondary	55.9	51.7	7.5	72.2
Upper secondary	68.9 85.2	58.7 77.2	14.8	40.9
Tertiary	85.3	77.3	9.4	15

Table 1: Labour-force indicators, 1	1996 and	2004
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Source: Sakernas and authors' calculations.

3.3 Minimum-wage provisions and trends

Minimum-wage provisions are applicable to regular, full-time work. The minimum wage is set on an annual basis at the sub-national level of government on the basis of an estimated cost of living indicator (KHL), which is used as an initial benchmark. This indicator was introduced in the late 1990s and is defined in terms of caloric intake. Since decentralization in 2001, the level of the minimum wage has been calculated by the local governments and then proposed to the provincial government by a tripartite wage council, including representatives from labour, government and the private sector. Typically, the lowest minimum wage proposed by the local governments in a given province is chosen by the provincial government. By contrast, prior to decentralization, the minimum wage used to be set nationally by the central government on the basis of an estimated needs indicator (KHM)⁵, which corresponds to a lower caloric intake benchmark than that implied by KHL (2600 as opposed to 3000 calories per day in the case of KHL).⁶

Of particular importance for the empirical analysis reported below is the increase in the real value of the minimum wage over time, especially during 2000-03. The minimum wage rose faster in real terms than value added per employee, especially during the 1990s and 2000-03 (Figure 1), and, as a result, it is very high in relative terms, at about 65% of the median wage in 2004. To put this relative value in perspective, the ratio of minimum-to-median wage was about 45% on average in the OECD area in 2004 (OECD, 2008).

4 The effect of the minimum wage on formal-sector employment, informality and unemployment

4.1 Estimation strategy

Our empirical strategy is to estimate the impact of the minimum wage on the labour market by regressing the formal-sector employment (i.e., salaried work), informality (i.e., non-salaried work) and unemployment rates on the minimum-to-mean wage ratio (the so-called Kaitz index). Our estimating equation is as follows:

$$Y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta W_{it} + \gamma X_{it} + \alpha_i + \epsilon_{it} \tag{1}$$

⁵Until end-2000, there were different minimum wages within a few provinces (Riau, South Sumatra, West Java, East Java and Bali) and for selected sectors of activity.

⁶For more information on minimum-wage setting, see SMERU (2001) and Widarti (2006).

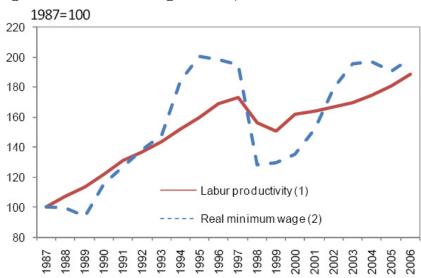


Figure 1. Minimum wage trends, 1987-2006

⁽¹⁾ Defined as gross value added divided by total employment deflated by the GDP deflator.

⁽²⁾ Defined as the simple average of the province/district-level minimum wages deflated by the GDP deflator. Source: Ministry of Manpower, World Bank (WDI database) and authors' calculations.

where $Y = [E \ I \ U]'$, W is the Kaitz index, X is a vector of controls (defined below), the α 's are unobserved fixed effects, and ϵ is an error term. The formal-sector employment, informality and unemployment rates are denoted by E, I and U, respectively. Districts and time are indexed by i and t, respectively.

We ran Equation (1) first for the formal-sector employment, informality and unemployment rates separately including fixed effects. But our basic hypotheses are that an increase in the minimum wage is associated with a fall in formal-sector employment, and that the workers displaced from the formal sector are absorbed into the informal sector. Therefore, the error terms are bound to be contemporaneously correlated across equations, such that $E(ee') = \Sigma$ with $\sigma_{ij} \neq 0$ for $i \neq j$, where i, j = (E, I, U). To deal with this problem, we also estimated Equation (1) using a seemingly unrelated (SUR) technique as first proposed by Zellner (1962).⁷

⁷Bosch and Manacorda (2007) used municipal data for Mexico to assess the impact of a decline in the real value of the minimum wage during 1988 to 1994 on employment. They ran separate regressions for wageearners and the self-employed, whereas we argue that the impact of the minimum wage should be estimated jointly for formal-sector employment and informality.

4.2 Definition of the variables and identification

Because our units of observation are the districts, all variables were computed using the reference district's adult population (aged 15-65 years) living in urban areas. We restricted the sample to the urban population, because the formality rate is very low in rural areas (Table 1). As noted above, our baseline definition of formal-sector employment includes only salaried workers. The definition of the variables to be included in the regressions is reported in Table 2. Basic descriptive statistics for the entire working-age population are reported in Table 3.

The main variable of interest is the Kaitz index. It is computed for salaried workers only, because minimum-wage legislation does not apply in the informal sector. The set of controls is in line with the literature based on longitudinal data (Bell, 1995; Maloney, 1995; Neumark and Wascher, 2004) and includes indicators of labour-market conditions (hourly wages and hours worked for formal- and informal-sector workers), labour productivity, demographic effects (shares of population aged 15-25 and 56-65 years), economic structure (the reference district's size, urbanization rate and share of employment in the industrial sector) and time effects.

The 2001 decentralization reform provides an unique opportunity to evaluate the effects of minimum-wage setting in Indonesia. There has been a considerable post-reform increase in the minimum wage variation among the Indonesian provinces, which lends credence to our identification strategy: in particular, the variance of the minimum wage rose from 0.14 in 2000 to 0.57 in 2002 in the sample of 24 provinces whose boundaries remained unaffected by the administrative reorganizations.

Identification is of particular importance in our analysis. Of course, it is extremely difficult to propose a definitive identification procedure for estimating the labour market effects of minimum-wage setting. Notwithstanding this difficulty, our strategy consists essentially of using district-level data to run the labour market status equations. The minimum wage (the numerator of the Kaitz index) is set at the provincial level in Indonesia, therefore variations in the minimum wage are likely to be endogenous at the provincial level, but reasonably exogenous at the district level (since districts within the same province are highly heterogeneous for what concerns labour market conditions). For instance, while employment is likely to correlate with the minimum wage at the provincial level, there is no reason to believe that a correlation would exist at the level of each district.⁸ Since mean formal-sector wages

⁸Both employment and the minimum wage may grow faster in rapidly growing provinces, but this is not necessarily the case at the district level, unless all districts in the same province grew at the same pace.

(the denominator of the Kaitz index) may correlate with unobserved determinants of the labour market outcomes of interest (formality, informality, unemployment), we include mean formal-sector wages among the regressors, along with other district-level controls proxying for labour demand and economic growth.⁹

We also control for human capital and deal with the likely endogeneity of educational attainment by following Duflo (2001) in using information on the number of schools built in each district during implementation of a large school construction program (*Sekolah Dasar INPRES*) between 1973-74 and 1978-79. We multiplied the number of schools built in each district by the share of adult population born after 1963 to focus on the cohort that was exposed to the program. Duflo (2001) shows that the cohort of individuals born in districts that benefited from the program was more likely to stay longer at school and to earn more once joining the labour force.

⁹It may also be argued that a fall in the share of formal-sector workers lead to an increase in the Kaitz index (through a decrease in the denominator). This would be the case if the decrease in formal-sector employment were associated with a decrease in mean wages in the formal sector, but in our data we do not find evidence that before 2001 district-level formal-sector wages were affected by informality and unemployment.

Variable name	Definition
Formality rate	Share of formal-sector workers (salaried workers or non-agricultural salaried workers, depending on model specification) in the reference pop- ulation (all workers, males or females, depending on model specification).
Informality rate	Share of informal-sector workers (based on the different definitions of formality) in the reference population (all workers, males or females, depending on model specification).
Unemployment rate	Share of unemployed individuals in the reference population (all workers, males or females, depending on model specification).
Kaitz index	Ratio of minimum-to-mean wage for formal-sector workers. The mean wage of formal-sector workers is computed over the reference population (all workers, males or females, depending on model specification).
Hourly wage (formal sector)	Mean hourly wage of formal-sector workers computed for the reference population (all workers, males or females, depending on model specifi- cation).
Hourly wage (informal sector)	As Sakernas does not provide information on informal-sector earnings, a proxy for the hourly wage of informal-sector workers was computed as follows. In Susenas all household members aged 10 years and above de- clare their working status (<i>i.e.</i> salaried worker, employer, self-employed or family/unpaid worker) and the hours worked in a week, while informa- tion on wage income and earnings from agricultural and non-agricultural activities is collected at the household level. We selected those house- holds where all members are non-salaried workers and have no wage earnings and computed the mean hourly wage for these households in each district. As Susenas is not available for all the years used in the sample, 1996-1999 averages (when both are available) were used for 1998, 1999-2002 averages (when both are available) were used for 2000 and 2005 data was used for 2004.

 Table 2: Variable definitions

Variable name	Definition
Labour	Mean value added per worker in the reference district's manufacturing
productivity	sector computed using Industrial Survey (SI) data.
District size	Adult population living in urban areas in the reference district.
Urbanization rate	Share of the reference district's population living in urban areas.
Hours worked (formal sector)	Mean weekly hours worked by formal-sector workers computed for the reference population (all workers, males or females, depending on model specification).
Hours worked (informal sector)	Mean weekly hours worked by informal-sector workers computed for the reference population (all workers, males or females, depending on model specification).
Employment in industry	Share of overall employment in industry computed for the reference pop- ulation (all workers, males or females, depending on model specification).
School intensity	Share of the reference district's population born after 1963 multiplied by the number of schools built per children in the reference district under <i>Sekolah Dasar INPRES</i> during 1973-78.
Population aged 15-25 years	Share of population aged 15-25 years in the reference district.
Population aged 56-65 years	Share of population aged 56-65 years in the reference district.

Table 2: Variable definitions (continued)

Source: Sakernas, Susenas, SI and authors' calculations.

Variable	Ν	Mean	St. dev.	Min.	Max
Tables 4 5 6					
Tables 4, 5, 6Formality rate	1356	0.256	0.096	0	0.558
Informality rate	$1350 \\ 1356$	0.230 0.327	0.090 0.131	0	0.550
Kaitz index	1346	0.321 0.479	0.131 0.172	0.070	2.267
	$1340 \\ 1346$	0.479 3132.423	0.172 2016.432	198.611	19915.230
Hourly wage (formal sector)	1340	3132.423	2010.432	196.011	19910.200
Hours worked	1346	44.122	5.346	13.200	66.400
(formal sector)	1040	44.122	0.040	13.200	00.400
Hours worked	1351	42.022	7.365	8.143	72.200
(informal sector)	1991	42.022	1.505	0.140	12.200
(mormai sector)					
Table A2					
Formality rate	1356	0.241	0.097	0	0.548
Informality rate	1356	0.342	0.134	0	
Kaitz index	1341	0.467	0.157	0.070	2.26'
Hourly wage	1341	3185.336	2037.014	198.611	19915.23
(formal sector)					
Hours worked	1341	44.202	5.277	13.200	64.10
(formal sector)					
Hours worked	1351	42.073	7.207	8.143	72.20
(informal sector)					
All Tables					
Unemployment	1356	0.050	0.036	0	0.256
rate					
Hourly wage	1243	3293.962	3067.389	91.719	39960.990
(informal sector)					
Labour	1285	29893.670	46554.300	53.719	634631.100
productivity					
District size	1356	273.042	584.865	14.000	9582.000
Urbanization rate	1356	0.429	0.303	0.034	
Employment	1356	0.116	0.107	0	0.82
in industry					
Population aged	1356	0.264	0.063	0.036	0.486
15-25 years					
Population aged	1356	0.063	0.033	0	0.217
15-25 years					
School intensity	1308	0.0015	0.0008	0.0003	0.0068

Table 3: Descriptive statistics for the working-age population

Source: Sakernas, Susenas, SI and authors' calculations.

4.3 Regression results

4.3.1 Working-age population

The results of the estimation of Equation (1) for the formal-sector employment, informality and unemployment rates separately by fixed effects and jointly by SUR are reported in Table 4 for the entire working-age (15-65 years) population. The standard errors reported in the fixed-effect estimations are robust to serial correlation and heteroskedasticity. Hours worked and demographic factors were used to fulfill the exclusion restrictions in the SUR equations.

The Kaitz index is negatively signed and statistically significant in the formality and unemployment equations, and positively signed and statistically significant in the informality equation, regardless of the estimator used. These findings are in line with the theoretical prediction of a displacement effect for formal-sector workers, who are subsequently absorbed into the informal sector. The negative and significant coefficient on unemployment seems to suggest that the decrease in formal-sector employment due to a rise in the relative value of the minimum wage shifts workers from "queuing" unemployment to the inactive population or the informal sector.

As for the remaining covariates, the results are as follows. Formal-sector hourly wages only affect formal-sector employment in the SUR regressions, while informal-sector hourly wages are associated with changes in unemployment in both OLS and SUR estimations. Hours worked have a bearing on employment in the informal sector. Labour productivity and urbanization are not correlated with the distribution of employment between the formal and informal sectors and unemployment. Economic structure matters in that the share of employment in industry is associated with higher employment in the formal sector and lower employment in the informal sector, regardless of the technique used to estimate the regressions. Human capital, proxied by school intensity to avoid a possible endogeneity bias arising from inclusion of educational attainment in the regressions, is strongly negatively (positively) correlated with formal-sector (informal-sector) employment, regardless of the estimation technique used. It affects unemployment positively when the regressions are estimated by SUR, suggesting the presence of "queuing unemployment" for better educated workers. Scale effects, proxied by district size, only matter in the formal/informal-sector employment regressions estimated by fixed effects. Time effects are strongly significant in the formal-informal employment regressions, regardless of the estimator used. The age structure of the population is positively significant in the unemployment equation. This is as expected, because unemployment is very high among youths.

4.3.2 Robustness checks

The baseline results rely on the identification hypothesis that the minimum wage is reasonably exogenous to district-level formal-sector employment and labour-market conditions. This identification hypothesis is important because, by construction, all the variation in the Kaitz index arises from the within-province variation in district-level mean formal-sector wages. The hypothesis is valid because, as noted above, the minimum wage is set through a political process at the provincial, rather than district, level on the basis of caloric intake indicators. But this may not be true for some of the districts, because the provincial governments typically set the minimum wage at the level of the lowest minimum wage put forward within each province. It may therefore be the case that the Kaitz index is endogenous for low-income districts. To make sure that this is not driving our results, we re-estimated the regressions by excluding from the sample those districts whose average wages are below their respective provinces' median wage. Our main findings (not reported but available upon request) are nevertheless robust to this re-estimation, which lends credence to our identification hypothesis.

The baseline findings are also robust to a change in the definition of informality. To test this hypothesis, we re-estimated the baseline regressions while treating only non-agricultural salaried workers as formal. The results, reported in Table A1, are comparable to the baseline findings in the sign and magnitude of the estimated coefficients. We also run the baseline regression for the three types of informal-sector workers (*i.e.* self-employed, employers and family workers) separately. The results of these regressions (not reported but available upon request) show that the increase in informality arising from a hike in the Kaitz index is due entirely to higher self-employment, the group of workers that accounts for the bulk of the informal sector.

Table 4: Informality, formality and unemployment, entire working-age population								
		d effects, robus		fixed effects, SUR				
	formality	informality	unempl.	formality	informality	unempl.		
Kaitz index	-0.0532^{*}	0.0823^{***}	-0.0237***	-0.0515***	0.0869^{***}	-0.0230***		
	[0.062]	[0.001]	[0.001]	[0.002]	[0.000]	[0.001]		
Hourly wage	5.22E-06	-4.97E-06	-4.08E-07	5.18e-06**	-4.35E-06	-4.75 E-07		
(formals)	[0.160]	[0.189]	[0.731]	[0.019]	[0.104]	[0.599]		
Hourly wage	3.42E-07	5.38E-07	-1.03e-06***	3.52E-07	5.56E-07	-1.03e-06***		
(informals)	[0.736]	[0.594]	[0.000]	[0.691]	[0.617]	[0.006]		
Labour	8.87E-08	-6.08E-08	2.59E-08	8.12E-08	-8.68E-08	2.25 E-08		
productivity	[0.390]	[0.638]	[0.563]	[0.315]	[0.394]	[0.510]		
District size	$7.77e-06^{***}$	-9.30e-06***	9.42E-07	7.52E-06	-9.59E-06	1.01E-06		
	[0.003]	[0.001]	[0.376]	[0.137]	[0.130]	[0.636]		
Urbanization	-0.0176	0.00654	0.01	-0.0144	0.00841	0.0114		
rate	[0.626]	[0.889]	[0.391]	[0.511]	[0.760]	[0.219]		
Hours worked	-0.00033			-0.00019				
(formals)	[0.636]			[0.595]				
Hours worked		-0.00208***			-0.000990***			
(informals)		[0.000]			[0.002]			
Employment	0.201^{***}	-0.194^{***}	-0.0109	0.201***	-0.193^{***}	-0.0113		
in industry	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.444]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.361]		
School	44.53***	-59.81***	6.707	50.45***	-63.25***	10.58*		
intensity	[0.002]	[0.001]	[0.320]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.055]		
Popul. aged			0.113^{***}			0.0715^{***}		
15-25 years			[0.000]			[0.000]		
Popul. aged			0.161^{***}			0.165^{***}		
56-65 years			[0.000]			[0.000]		
1998	-0.0305***	0.0332^{***}	-0.00376	-0.0312***	0.0344^{***}	-0.00369		
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.226]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.170]		
2000	-0.0448***	0.0569^{***}	0.00367	-0.0479***	0.0552^{***}	0.00312		
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.371]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.333]		
2002	-0.0932***	0.0993***	0.00795^{*}	-0.0950***	0.0989***	0.00438		
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.097]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.299]		
2004	-0.0965***	0.0975***	0.00672	-0.0988***	0.0951***	0.00466		
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.228]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.322]		
Constant	0.246***	0.448***	0.0091	0.167***	0.560***	0.0378*		
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.488]	[0.002]	[0.000]	[0.074]		
No. of obs.	1151	1148	1151	1148	1148	1148		
No. of districts	265	264	265	264	264	264		
R-squared	0.167	0.142	0.062	0.519	0.558	0.397		

Table 4: Informality, formality and unemployment, entire working-age population

Standard errors in brackets; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

4.3.3 Males and females

Another consideration is that the effect of the minimum wage on labour-market outcomes may differ between males and females. To shed further light on possible gender differentials, the baseline regressions were re estimated by SUR for males and females. The results reported in Table 5 for formal- and informal-sector employment are comparable to those reported above for the entire working-age population: an increase in the relative value of the minimum wage is associated with higher informality and lower employment in the formal sector. As for unemployment, the minimum wage appears to have a negative effect for female but not for males. Hourly wages in the formal sector affect formal-sector employment positively (negatively) for males (females) and informal-sector employment negatively for males (no effect for females). The finding suggests that rising wages in the formal sector attract male workers who might otherwise work informally to the formal sector, leaving unemployment unchanged. For females, by contrast, rising formal-sector wages depress employment in the formal sector. Nevertheless, informal-sector wages affect unemployment negatively, suggesting that women may be attracted to the informal sector when wages rise in that sector, rather than registering as unemployed.

As regards human capital, we experimented with replacing school intensity, which cannot be computed for males and females separately, by the shares of population having attainment primary and lower-secondary education. The results (not reported but available upon request) are comparable to those reported in Table 5, although the effect of formal-sector hourly wages on informal-sector employment loses significance in the regression for male workers.

		males		1 0	females	
	formality	informality	unempl.	formality	informality	unempl.
Kaitz index	-0.0569***	0.0744***	-0.00614	-0.0282***	0.0273***	-0.00566**
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.207]	[0.000]	[0.001]	[0.040]
Hourly wage	5.61e-06**	-7.81e-06***	2.29E-07	-2.99e-06*	7.89E-07	4.04E-07
(formals)	[0.020]	[0.004]	[0.822]	[0.078]	[0.715]	[0.568]
Hourly wage	1.06E-06	3.79E-07	-8.01E-07	-3.09E-07	5.21E-07	-1.27e-06***
(informals)	[0.381]	[0.785]	[0.123]	[0.715]	[0.655]	[0.001]
Labour	8.31E-08	-2.22e-07*	5.62E-08	5.49E-08	2.18E-08	5.09E-09
productivity	[0.454]	[0.082]	[0.240]	[0.479]	[0.840]	[0.884]
District size	1.01E-05	-1.21E-05	8.47E-07	4.53E-06	-5.49E-06	3.96E-07
	[0.141]	[0.124]	[0.775]	[0.344]	[0.406]	[0.854]
Urbanization	-0.00576	0.0124	-0.00726	-0.0111	-0.0209	0.0258***
rate	[0.847]	[0.718]	[0.574]	[0.594]	[0.470]	[0.007]
Hours worked	-0.000395			-0.000327		
(formals)	[0.324]			[0.302]		
Hours worked		-5.48E-05			-0.000776**	
(informals)		[0.855]			[0.023]	
Employment	0.305^{***}	-0.249^{***}	0.00157	0.0243	-0.0177	-0.0157
in industry	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.923]	[0.282]	[0.571]	[0.124]
School	94.55^{***}	-76.53***	6.085	-8.234	-56.54^{***}	14.80^{**}
intensity	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.426]	[0.495]	[0.001]	[0.012]
Popul. aged			0.00377			0.0552^{**}
15-25 years			[0.883]			[0.011]
Popul. aged			0.145^{***}			0.112^{***}
56-65 years			[0.001]			[0.002]
1998	-0.0515^{***}	0.0505^{***}	0.000876	-0.0046	0.0103	-0.00436
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.810]	[0.435]	[0.207]	[0.105]
2000	-0.0801***	0.0826^{***}	0.00653	0.00359	0.0190^{*}	-0.00278
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.144]	[0.616]	[0.052]	[0.394]
2002	-0.142^{***}	0.166^{***}	0.000901	-0.0280***	0.0267^{**}	-0.00139
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.874]	[0.001]	[0.019]	[0.740]
2004	-0.147^{***}	0.166^{***}	0.00177	-0.0196*	0.0193	-0.00057
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.779]	[0.050]	[0.147]	[0.899]
Constant	0.173**	0.656***	0.0239	0.201***	0.438***	0.0601***
	[0.013]	[0.000]	[0.411]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.005]
No. of obs.	1142	1142	1142	1114	1114	1114
No. of districts	264	264	264	263	263	263
R-squared	0.512	0.547	0.338	0.49	0.593	0.42

Table 5: Informality, formality and unemployment, by gender

All models are estimated as SUR fixed effects panel.

Standard errors in brackets; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

4.3.4 Net effect on employment

The fact that an increase in the minimum-to-mean wage ratio increases informality and depresses formal-sector employment does not predict the overall employment effect of minimumwage hikes. To be sure, we re-estimated Equation (1) as a two-equation model for total (formal- and informal-sector) employment and unemployment as the dependent variables. The results are reported in Table 6.

The parameter estimates for the entire working-age population show that an increase in the Kaitz index is associated with an increase in total employment and a decrease in unemployment. An increase in informality associated with minimum-wage hikes therefore more than compensates for concomitant job losses in the formal sector and the exit of some unemployed individuals from the labour force. In the case of male workers, the net effect on employment is positive, and minimum-wage hikes do not affect unemployment. This finding is consistent with the results reported in Table 5, where the (positive) effect of changes in the Kaitz index on informality is greater in magnitude than the (negative) effect on formal-sector employment. In the case of females, however, the net employment effect is null, because an increase in informality offsets a concomitant decrease in formal-sector employment.

The finding that an increase in the relative value of the minimum wage has a positive net effect on employment, at least as far as male workers are concerned, is consistent with the so called "lighthouse effect", according to which inactive workers are attracted to the labour market, because rising wages in the formal-sector are associated with higher pay in the informal sector. This seems to be the case in Indonesia: the coefficient of the Kaitz index in a regression of informal-sector earnings on the Kaitz index is consistently positive and significant (results obtained by fixed effects available upon request).

Table 6: Total employment and unemployment							
	to	tal	ma	les	females		
	employment	unemplym.	employment	unemplym.	employment	unemplym.	
Kaitz index	0.0368^{**}	-0.0226***	0.0171*	-0.00597	-0.00121	-0.00564**	
	[0.018]	[0.001]	[0.051]	[0.221]	[0.889]	[0.040]	
Hourly wage	1.08E-06	-4.97E-07	-2.34E-06	2.28E-07	-2.72E-06	3.95E-07	
(formals)	[0.605]	[0.582]	[0.213]	[0.823]	[0.251]	[0.577]	
Hourly wage	9.11E-07	$-1.03e-06^{***}$	1.44E-06	-8.01E-07	2.38E-07	$-1.27e-06^{***}$	
(informals)	[0.266]	[0.006]	[0.118]	[0.123]	[0.838]	[0.001]	
Labour	-1.02E-08	2.22E-08	-1.40e-07*	5.59E-08	$5.37 \text{E}{-}08$	5.02E-09	
productivity	[0.891]	[0.516]	[0.099]	[0.242]	[0.617]	[0.886]	
District size	-2.14E-06	1.02E-06	-2.03E-06	8.58E-07	-1.07E-06	4.02 E- 07	
	[0.646]	[0.632]	[0.699]	[0.772]	[0.871]	[0.852]	
Urbanization	-0.00555	0.0113	0.0064	-0.00746	-0.0305	0.0257^{***}	
rate	[0.784]	[0.222]	[0.779]	[0.564]	[0.290]	[0.007]	
Hours worked	-0.00011		-0.00051		-0.00051		
(formals)	[0.816]		[0.259]		[0.280]		
Hours worked	-0.000796**		-1.35E-05		-9.32E-05		
(informals)	[0.014]		[0.965]		[0.799]		
Employment	0.00725	-0.0114	0.0561*	0.00148	0.0075	-0.0156	
in industry	[0.788]	[0.354]	[0.051]	[0.928]	[0.810]	[0.125]	
School	-13.64	10.47^{*}	18.13	5.811	-64.93***	14.75**	
intensity	[0.228]	[0.058]	[0.156]	[0.448]	[0.000]	[0.013]	
Popul. aged		0.0643***		-0.00078		0.0532**	
15-25 years		[0.001]		[0.976]		[0.014]	
Popul. aged		0.151***		0.132***		0.108***	
56-65 years		[0.000]		[0.002]		[0.003]	
1998	0.00347	-0.00353	-0.00099	0.001	0.00676	-0.00431	
	[0.552]	[0.189]	[0.877]	[0.783]	[0.406]	[0.109]	
2000	0.0068	0.00319	0.00272	0.0066	0.0230**	-0.00275	
	[0.334]	[0.322]	[0.730]	[0.139]	[0.020]	[0.398]	
2002	0.00342	0.00384	0.0244**	0.000544	0.000216	-0.00153	
	[0.698]	[0.362]	[0.010]	[0.924]	[0.985]	[0.714]	
2004	-0.00473	0.00457	0.0195*	0.00174	0.000829	-0.00058	
	[0.655]	[0.332]	[0.084]	[0.783]	[0.952]	[0.898]	
Constant	0.712***	0.0401*	0.833***	0.0258	0.623***	0.0609***	
	[0.000]	[0.058]	[0.000]	[0.375]	[0.000]	[0.004]	
No. of obs.	1148	1148	1142	1142	1114	1114	
No. of districts	276	276	264	264	263	263	
R-squared	0.592	0.396	0.462	0.337	0.652	0.42	

Table 6: Total employment and unemployment

All models are estimated as SUR fixed effects panel.

Standard errors in brackets; *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1.

5 Conclusions

There is considerable controversy over the impact of minimum-wage legislation on employment in both developed and developing countries. Empirical evidence available to date for a variety of countries points towards a relatively mild, if at all significant, disemployment effect. The case of Indonesia is interesting, because the decentralization of minimum-wage setting to the provinces in 2001 offers the opportunity to revisit this topic. Also, the Indonesian minimum wage is very high, even in comparison with OECD countries, at about 65% of the median wage in 2004, which suggests that its disemployment effect might be potentially strong.

The panel methodology used in this paper improves upon the empirical literature by recognizing the complexities of labour-market dynamics in a dual economy, such as Indonesia, where the impact of the minimum wage on employment is affected by the pervasiveness of informality. According to the definition used in this paper, over 70% of employment is considered informal. We address this issue by correcting for contemporaneous correlations among the residuals of the labour-market outcome equations. Another contribution of the paper is its focus on local, rather than provincial, governments as the units of observation. This is useful not only for exploiting a much richer source of variations in the data, but also to adress the endogeneity of the minimum wage at the provincial level.

The main findings reported in the paper - that minimum-wage hikes destroy formal-sector jobs, but that these job losses are more than compensated for by the expansion of the informal sector - suggests that minimum-wage legislation is hurting, instead of protecting, vulnerable workers. Its use as social protection and income redistribution instruments can therefore be called into question. A policy recommendation that arises from the empirical analysis is that further increases in the minimum wage could be capped so as not to exceed labour productivity gains. This, or, if it were possible, a gradual reduction over time would help to alleviate the adverse employment impact of such a high minimum wage (in relation to the median) and to facilitate formalization in the labour market.

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Appendix

		ed effects, robus		fixed effects, SUR			
	formality	informality	unempl.	formality	informality	unempl.	
Kaitz index	-0.0720***	0.105***	-0.0259***	-0.0702***	0.107***	-0.0254***	
	[0.002]	[0.000]	[0.002]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.001]	
Hourly wage	3.98E-06	-3.24E-06	-1.13E-06	$3.84e-06^*$	-2.72E-06	-1.20E-06	
(formals)	[0.237]	[0.376]	[0.305]	[0.073]	[0.311]	[0.185]	
Hourly wage	6.41E-07	2.00E-07	-9.79e-07***	6.47E-07	2.50E-07	-9.74e-07***	
(informals)	[0.479]	[0.825]	[0.001]	[0.451]	[0.821]	[0.009]	
Labour	1.46E-07	-1.34E-07	4.07E-08	$1.38e-07^*$	-1.61E-07	3.72E-08	
productivity	[0.134]	[0.262]	[0.374]	[0.079]	[0.114]	[0.275]	
District size	5.95e-06**	-7.62e-06***	1.18E-06	5.68E-06	-7.86E-06	1.25E-06	
	[0.022]	[0.009]	[0.259]	[0.246]	[0.212]	[0.553]	
Urbanization	-0.0363	0.0254	0.00966	-0.0331	0.0272	0.0111	
rate	[0.292]	[0.598]	[0.412]	[0.120]	[0.321]	[0.231]	
Hours worked	-0.000111			-3.00E-06			
(formals)	[0.877]			[0.993]			
Hours worked		-0.00217^{***}			-0.000992***		
(informals)		[0.000]			[0.002]		
Employment	0.219^{***}	-0.216^{***}	-0.00973	0.219^{***}	-0.215^{***}	-0.01	
in industry	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.498]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.413]	
School	33.23**	-49.17***	8.42	39.21***	-52.42***	12.38^{**}	
intensity	[0.025]	[0.005]	[0.182]	[0.001]	[0.001]	[0.026]	
Popul. Aged			0.110^{***}			0.0698^{***}	
15-25 years			[0.000]			[0.000]	
Popul. Aged			0.158^{***}			0.162^{***}	
56-65 years			[0.000]			[0.000]	
1998	-0.0339***	0.0369^{***}	-0.00367	-0.0346***	0.0380^{***}	-0.00364	
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.244]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.179]	
2000	-0.0465^{***}	0.0580^{***}	0.0048	-0.0496***	0.0562^{***}	0.00425	
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.244]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.187]	
2002	-0.0825***	0.0880^{***}	0.00869^{*}	-0.0841***	0.0876^{***}	0.00515	
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.061]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.224]	
2004	-0.0832***	0.0835^{***}	0.00778	-0.0851***	0.0810^{***}	0.00573	
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.145]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.225]	
Constant	0.249^{***}	0.439^{***}	0.00927	0.186^{***}	0.531^{***}	0.0375^{*}	
	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.480]	[0.000]	[0.000]	[0.075]	
No. of Obs.	1146	1143	1146	1143	1143	1143	
No. of districts	265	264	265	264	264	264	
R-squared	0.152	0.129	0.063	0.544	0.58	0.4	

 Table A1: Informality, formality and unemployment, alternative definition of informality.