The Wage Gap: Trends and Economic Consequences in the United States

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The gender wage gap is a statistical indicator often used as an index of the status of women's earnings relative to men's'. The purpose of this paper is to explore trends in the gender wage gap, with a focus on the factors that cause the gap to increase or decrease. The gender wage gap has steadily decreased over the past few decades. We intend to answer questions such as what is causing the gender wage gap to decline and what are the economic consequences of this trend? We will examine the history of the wage gap in the United States, the current situation, as well as what might be expected in the future. Our examination will be informed by the influence of race/ethnicity and, possibly class on the gender gap.