

[Descargar](#)

Keep in mind

The series Working Papers on Economics is published by the Office for Economic Studies at the *Banco de la República* (Central Bank of *Colombia*). The works published are provisional, and their authors are fully responsible for the opinions expressed in them, as well as for possible mistakes. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.

AUTHOR OR EDITOR

Mancino, M. Antonella

Morales-Zurita, Leonardo Fabio

Salazar, Diego F.

The series [*Borradores de Economía*](#) (Working Papers on Economics) contributes to the dissemination and promotion of the work by researchers from the institution. On multiple occasions, these works have been the result of collaborative work with individuals from other national or international institutions. This series is indexed at Research Papers in Economics (RePEc). The opinions contained in this document are the sole responsibility of the author and do not commit Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.

Publication Date:

Thursday, 21 December 2023

Abstract

We evaluate the returns to signaling occupation-specific skills using unique administrative data from a nationwide certification program in Colombia. The program certifies skills and issues three certificates: basic, intermediate, and advanced. We use regression discontinuity methods to compare workers' earnings around certificate assignment thresholds. Signaling advanced occupation-specific skills yields significant returns: 9.7% on average within two years of certification. Instead, we find no effects from signaling basic or intermediate occupation-specific skills. Two mechanisms drive our findings. First, the increase in earnings for salaried workers comes from promotions within a firm. Second, the certificate facilitates transitions from self-employment to salaried work.