

# Immigration and Working Schedules. Theory and Evidence

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## Abstract

Economist have long been interested in analyzing the effects of immigration on native wages and employment. Yet, there is little evidence on the effects of immigration on working conditions. Previous studies have shown that because of task complementarities immigration pushes natives towards more communication intensive jobs. This reallocation of tasks has important effects on native working conditions. We provide a theoretical framework to analyze the effects of immigration working schedules. The model predicts that because immigrants have a comparative advantage in manual tasks and manual task are prevalent at night, immigrants may have a comparative advantage in night-tasks independent of skill set, a higher fraction of foreign workers will choose night-time employment. Because day-time and night-time tasks are imperfect substitutes, the relative wage of day-time tasks increases as their supply becomes relative more scarce. The model also predicts that an increase in immigration will have a larger negative impact on the relative wages of foreign workers than native workers. Consistent with our hypotheses we show that immigration decreases the likelihood of natives of working nightly shifts. Similarly, we find that immigration decreases natives' likelihood of working in riskier jobs. The reallocation of job risks may have positive effects on natives' health.

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