

Relative Wages in the 1990's

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Talk Overview

Review facts from 1990s on relative wages.

Examine relative wages by education, experience and gender.

Compare trends for the 1990s to those for earlier decades.

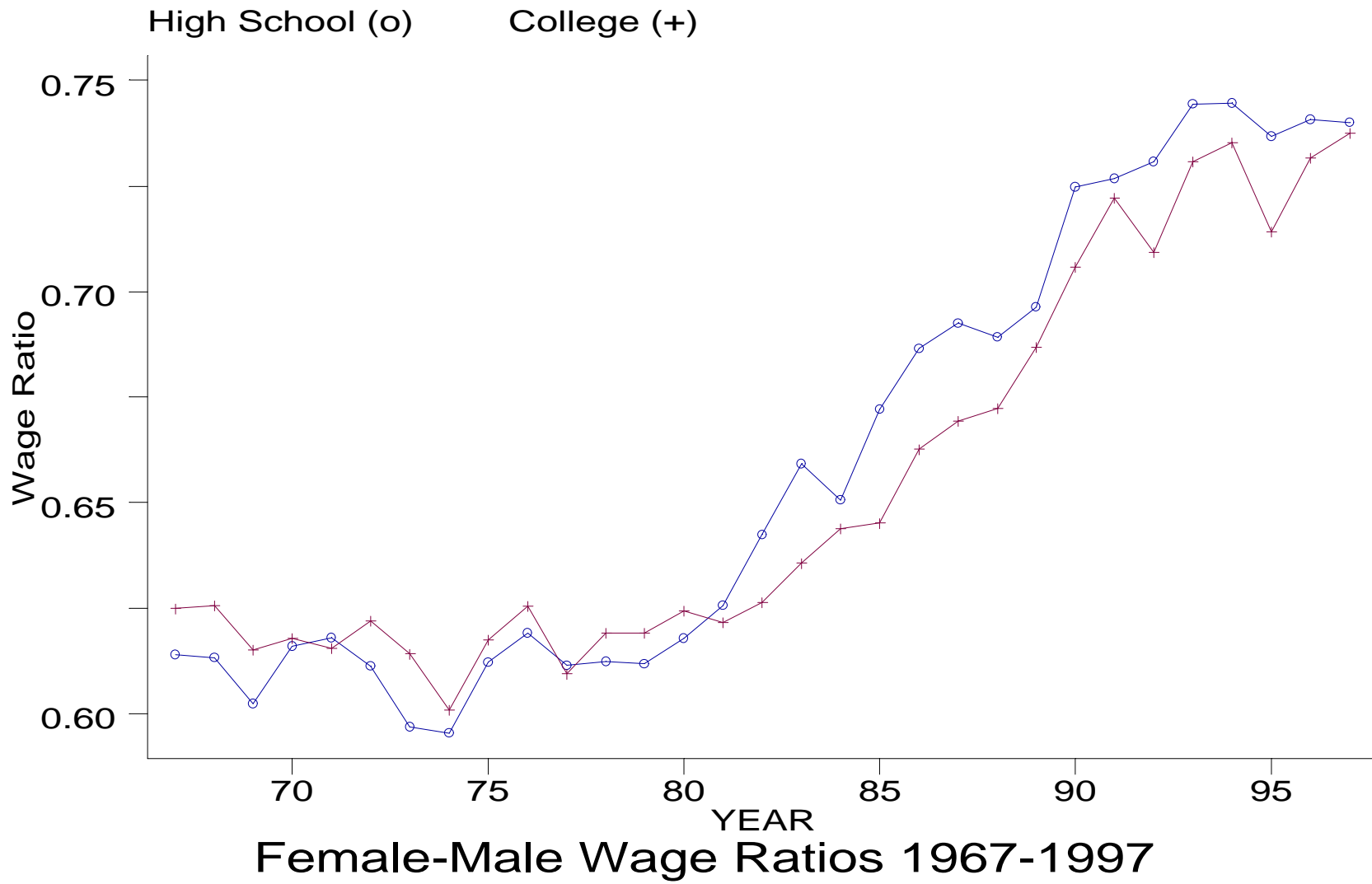
Review facts from 1990s on the growth in inequality.

Education: Growth in the college wage premium slowed in the mid-1990s. This is particularly true if we restrict attention to four years of college versus high school. Returns to graduate training have continued to rise. Growth in supply can explain some but not much of this slowdown.

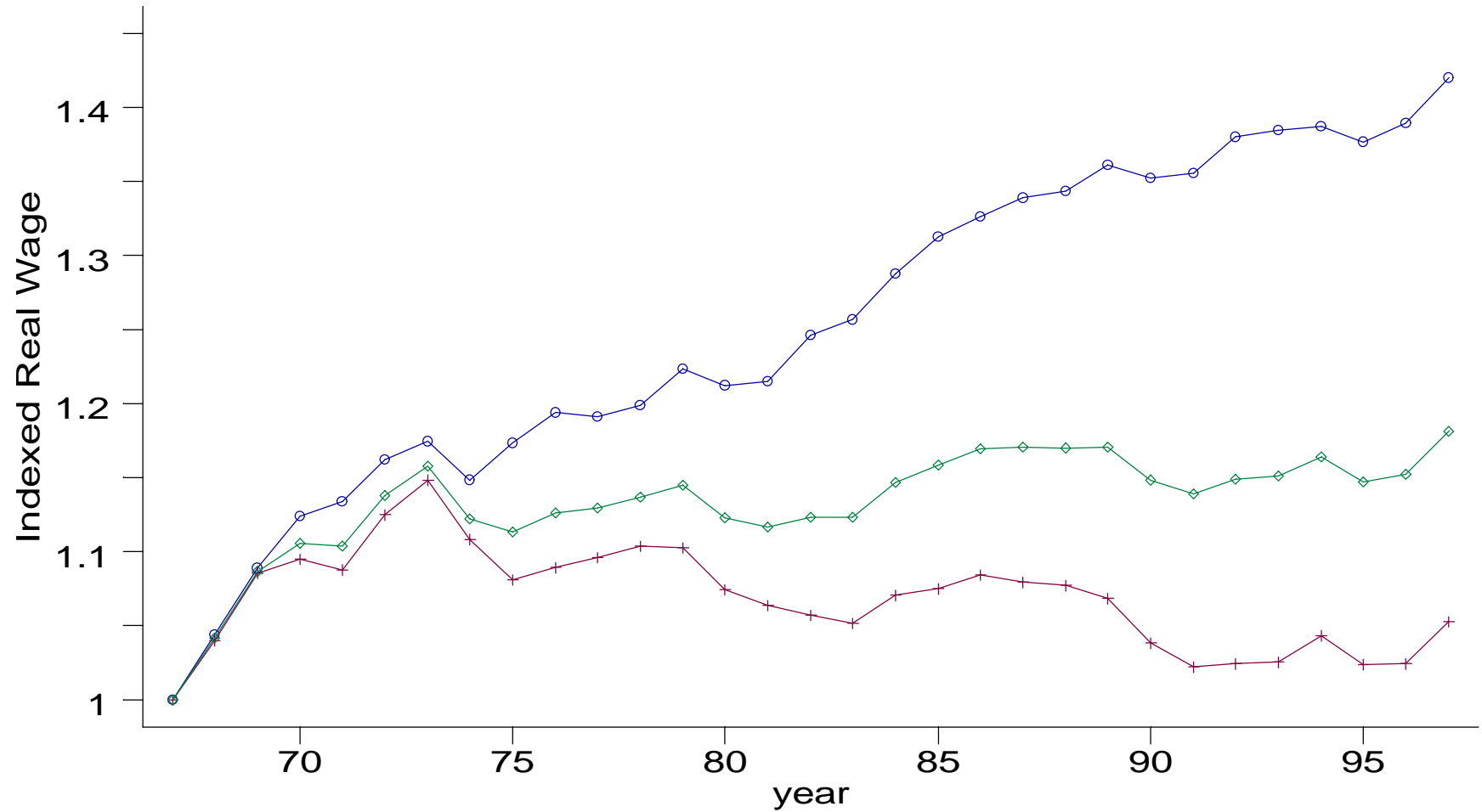
Gender: Wage convergence between women and men continued at a rapid pace through the early 1990s and then slowed somewhat during the mid-1990s.

Experience: After widening in the early 1970s, experience differentials for men have remained fairly constant throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

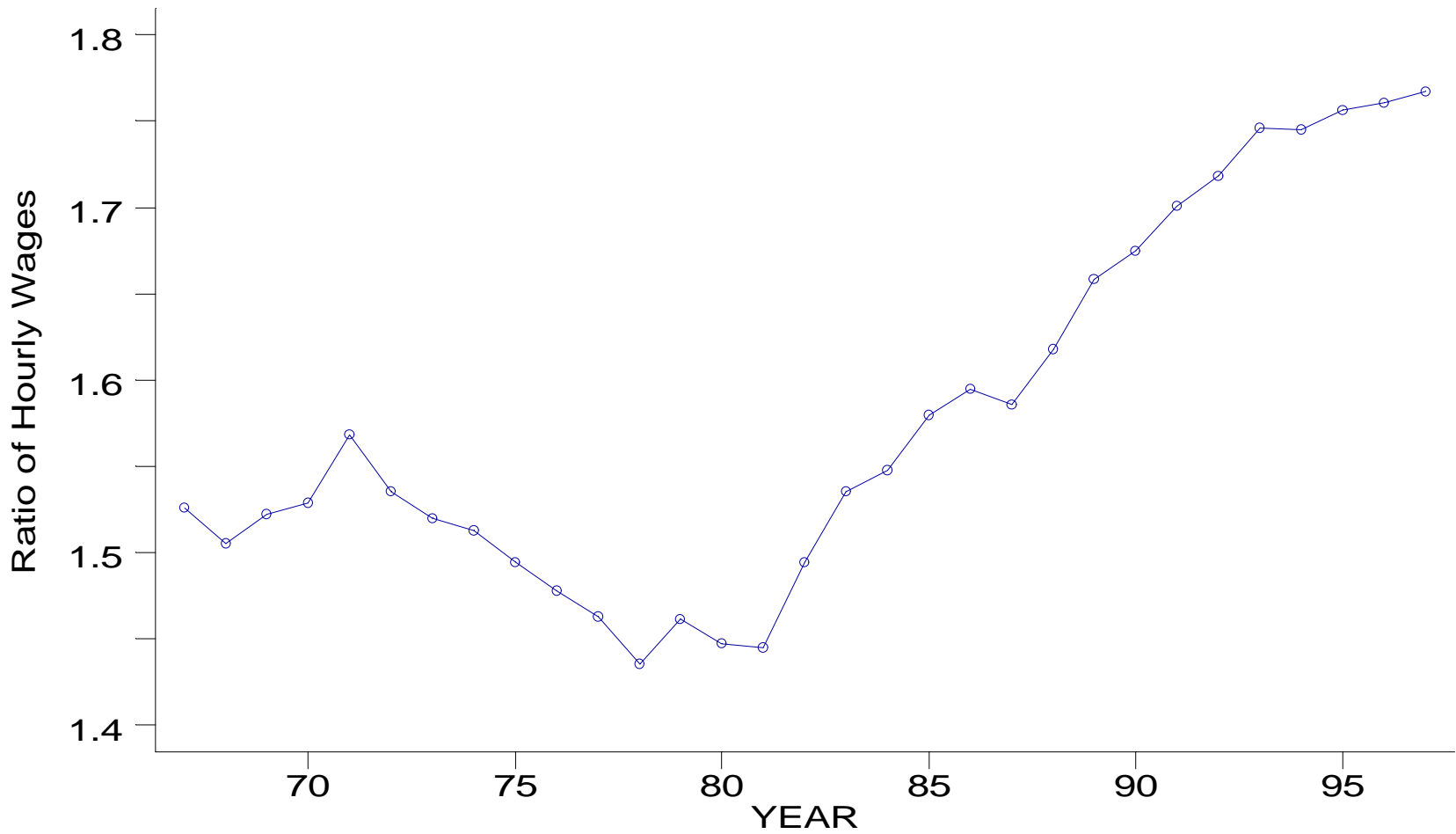
Inequality: The growth in overall inequality for both men and women has slowed significantly during the 1990s. This is particularly true at the low end of the wage spectrum where the 50-10 differential has declined somewhat. In contrast, the 90-50 differential has continued to expand but at a somewhat slower pace.



Women (o) Men (+) Both ()



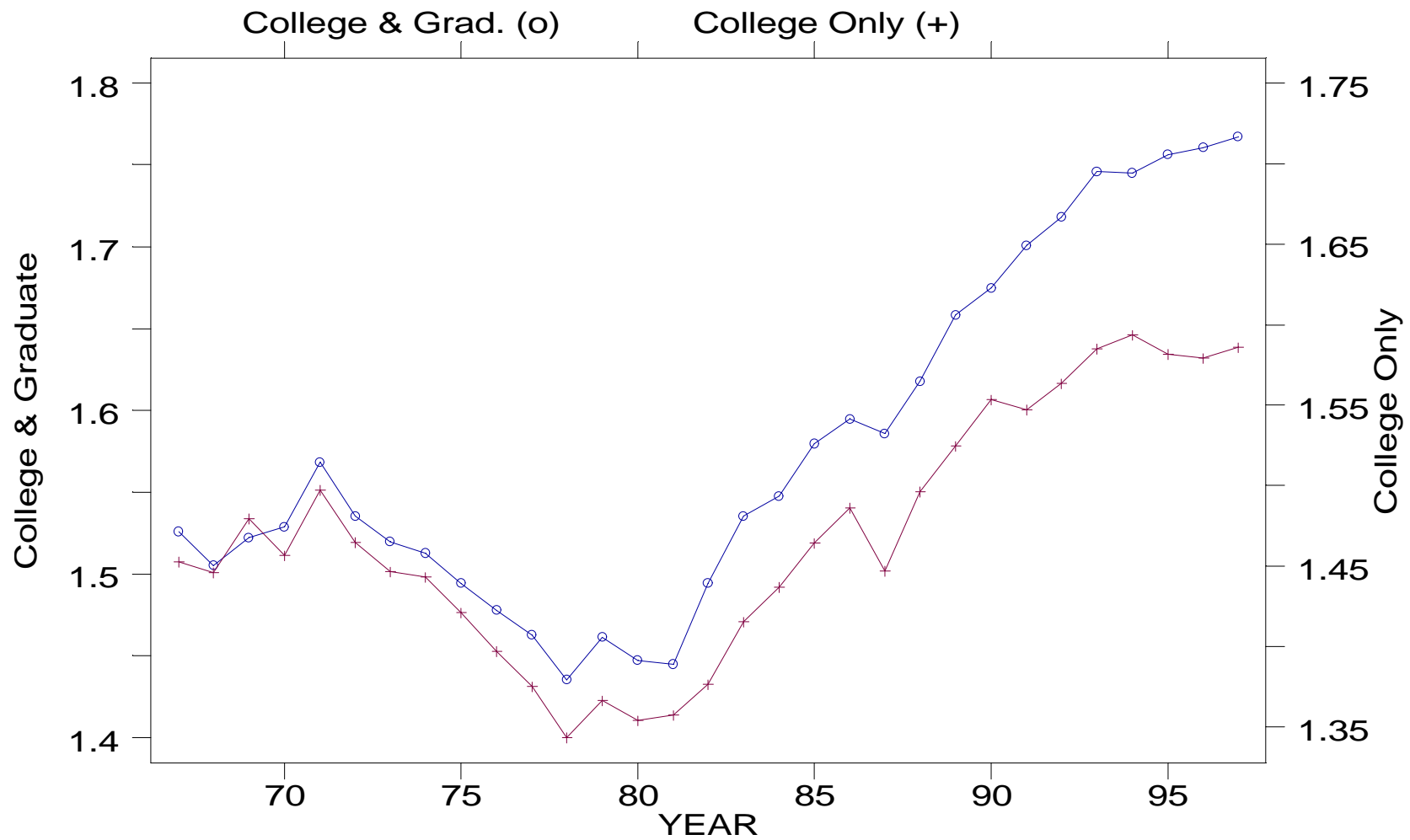
Indexed Wages for Women and Men (Deciles 2-9) 1967-97



College Plus / High School Wage Premium 1967-1997

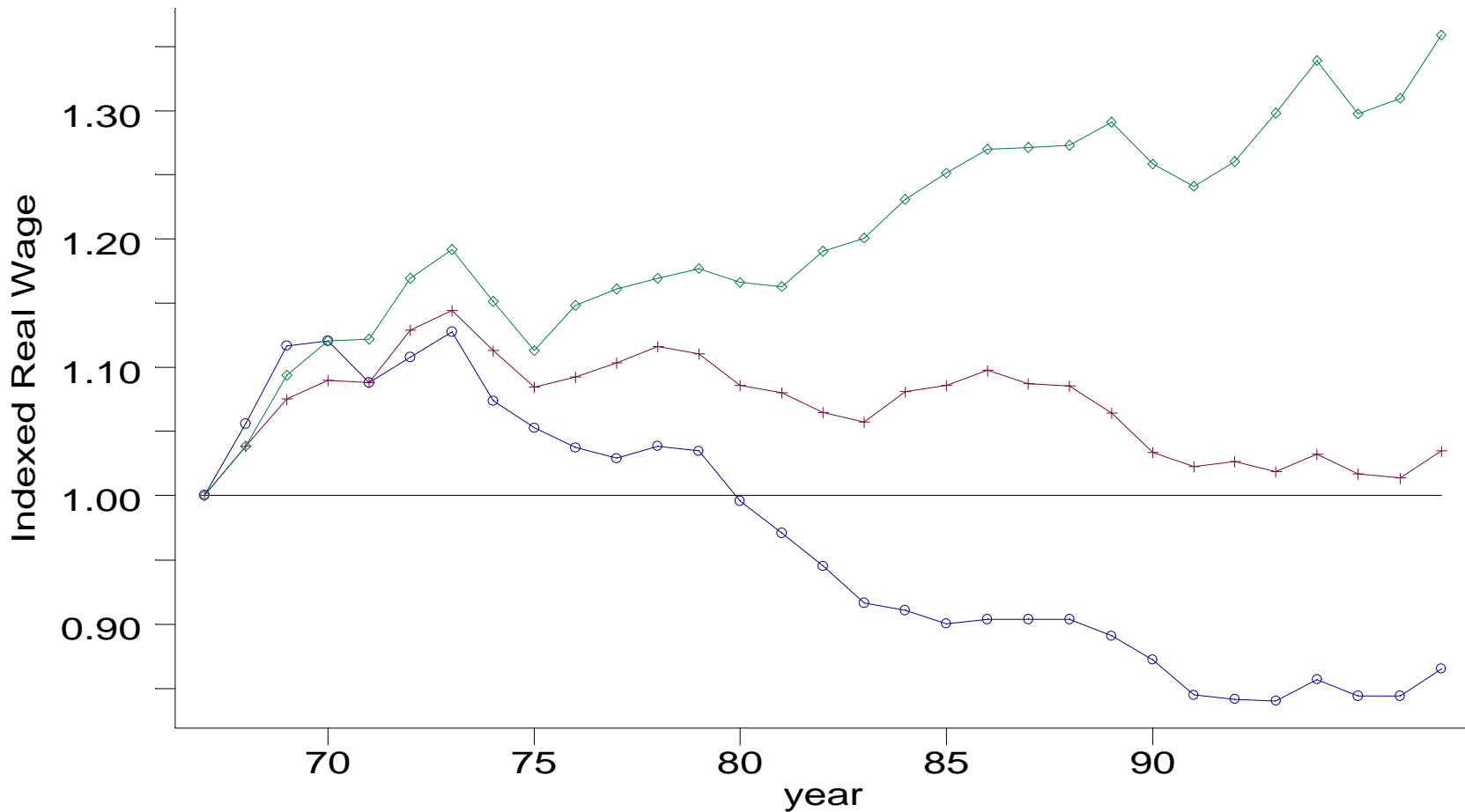


Black-White Hourly Wage Ratios by Gender 1967-1997



Alternative Post Secondary Education Premiums 1967-1997

10th Percentile (o) 50th Percentile (+) 90th Percentile ()



Index Real Wages for Men by Wage Decile 1967-1997