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ABSTRACT

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Effects of intermittent labor force attachment on women's earnings

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Women who leave the labor market for family reasons often return to wages lower than those of women who did not; they lose seniority, are less likely to receive on-the-job training, their skills may depreciate, and employers may believe they will again take a leave. This article calculates the cost of taking a break from work in terms of the wage difference between women who work continuously and women who take one or more leaves.

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