

The paper refers to the widely debated question of the employment effects of minimum wages.

Up to now, the literature produced different results based on different methodology and based on data from different countries with specific MW schemes. The paper contributes to this by proposing a further methodology that – to the best of my knowledge – was not applied before for these research questions.

It's surely useful to document the results based on this methodology.

Generally, the paper is well structured and clearly written. However, some critical comments have to be stated:

(a) The literature goes back to 2014. In the meantime, further studies were published – e.g., for the UK and the US. The authors should make references to this literature.

(b) The used covariates should be described in the data section. E.g., it would be important to consider the economic sectors, at least to distinguish between employment in the private and the public sector, mainly because the way how firms react on the MW could depend on their economic activities and the market where they are active.

(c) In the analysis for the job exits as outcome, the authors tried to compare similar workers that are paid “around” the NMW with a treatment group of workers paid above the existing NMW but below the next adjusted level of the NMW with a control group of workers that are already paid at or above this latter level of the NMW. This implies that relevant but very specific groups are analysed. This also means that the computed probabilities refer to this specific groups and not to the employment population. This should be clarified. For the analysis for the job exits, the authors compare job entry probabilities of former unemployed now paid at or below the current NMW level with job entry probabilities of former unemployed that are paid above the current NMW level. The same argument applies: the results for the job entry probabilities are specific to the treatment group and this should be clarified. Maybe this is the reason why the authors hesitated to compare predicted employment exit and entry flows based on the whole employment and unemployment population, though this would presumably be possible.

(d) Referring to the specific treatment and control groups the authors should reconsider their concluding remarks (part. the last sentence on page 21): obviously the job entry and and job exit probabilities do not refer to the whole working population and, thus, are hardly comparable.