WESTERN UNION ECONOMIC IMPACT

In January 2015, The University of Colorado Boulder Leeds School of Business and Western Union announced research that sheds new light on the positive impact of remittances. Led by Dr. Miles Light, a development economist at the University of Colorado Boulder's Business Research Division, the research is distinctive in that it quantifies increases in jobs, income and wages, using money transfers handled by Western Union in the Philippines as a case study and proxy for remittance impact on developing economies.

EMPLOYMENT 722,500

On average: each of WU's 8,500 Agent locations handle money transfers that support **85 jobs** When combined: WU Agent locations account for **722,500** jobs nationwide

INCOMES



Households receiving WU remittances

On average, nominal income in **lowerincome** households grows **14.5%** as a result of WU remittances

O.4% NOMINAL GROWTH

INCREASE

SKILLED

WAGE RATES

moving money for better

Households <u>not</u> receiving WU remittances

On average, **middle-to-high income** households grows by **0.4%** due to price & secondary income effects of remittances

INCREASE

SEMI-SKILL WAGE RATES

WAGE IMPACTS Remittance recipients tend to work less, presumably

to attend school, or provide more home-based care. This reduces the labor supply, causing upward pressure on wages of those who do not receive remittances.

CRE

OW-SKILL

AGE RATES

How do WU remittances impact wages?

Labor supply for household income deciles 2–6 decline by 4.8%, on average. As a result, market wages increase as follows:



https://www.colorado.edu/leeds/western-union