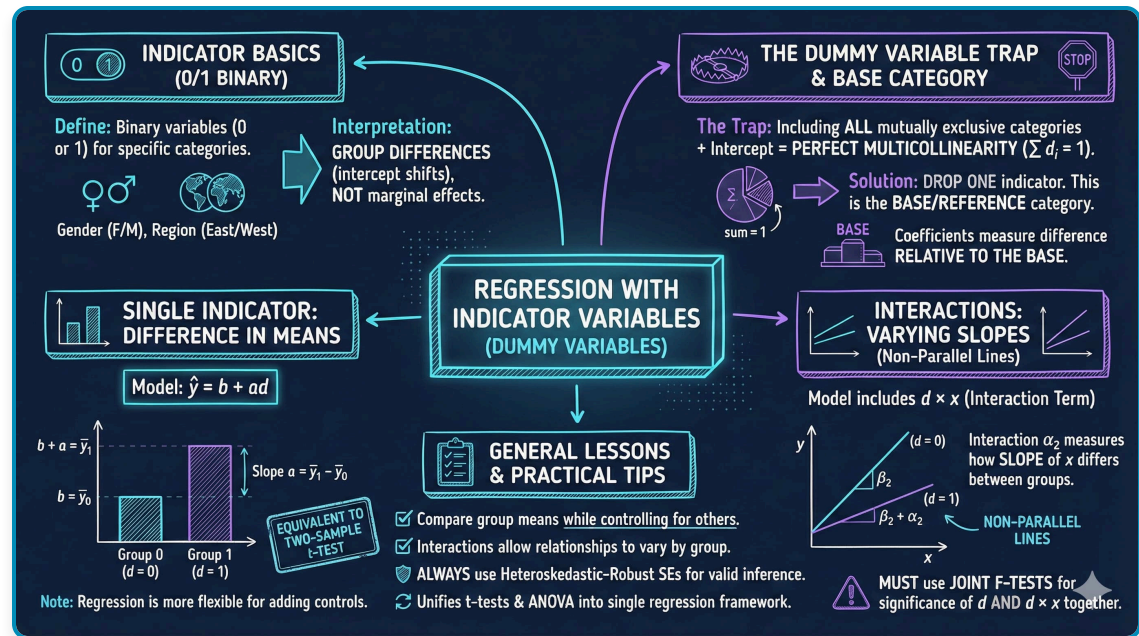


Chapter 14: Regression with Indicator Variables

metricsAI: An Introduction to Econometrics with Python and AI in the Cloud

Carlos Mendez



This notebook provides an interactive introduction to regression with indicator variables (also called dummy variables or categorical variables). All code runs directly in Google Colab without any local setup.

 [Open in Colab](#)

Chapter Overview

This chapter focuses on regression analysis when some regressors are indicator variables. Indicator variables are binary (0/1) variables that record whether an observation falls into a particular category.

What You'll Learn

By the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

1. Understand indicator (dummy) variables and their role in regression analysis
2. Interpret regression coefficients when regressors are categorical variables
3. Use indicator variables to compare group means and test for differences
4. Understand the relationship between regression on indicators and t-tests/ANOVA
5. Incorporate indicator variables alongside continuous regressors to control for categories
6. Create and interpret interaction terms between indicators and continuous variables
7. Apply the dummy variable trap rule when using sets of mutually exclusive indicators
8. Choose appropriate base categories and interpret coefficients relative to the base
9. Conduct joint F-tests for the significance of sets of indicator variables
10. Apply indicator variable techniques to real earnings data

Chapter Outline

- **14.1** Indicator Variables: Single Binary Variable
- **14.2** Indicator Variable with Additional Regressors
- **14.3** Interactions with Indicator Variables
- **14.4** Testing for Structural Change
- **14.5** Sets of Indicator Variables
- **Key Takeaways** -- Chapter review and consolidated lessons
- **Practice Exercises** -- Reinforce your understanding
- **Case Studies** -- Apply indicator variables to cross-country data

Dataset used:

- **AED_EARNINGS_COMPLETE.DTA**: 872 full-time workers aged 25-65 in 2000

Key economic questions:

- Is there a gender earnings gap? How large is it after controlling for education and experience?
- How do the returns to education differ by gender?
- Do earnings differ across types of workers (self-employed, private, government)?
- Can we test for structural differences between groups?

Estimated time: 90-120 minutes

Setup

First, we import the necessary Python packages and configure the environment for reproducibility. All data will stream directly from GitHub.

```
In [11]: # Import required packages
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
from statsmodels.formula.api import ols
from scipy import stats
from scipy.stats import f_oneway
from statsmodels.stats.anova import anova_lm
import random
import os

# Set random seeds for reproducibility
RANDOM_SEED = 42
random.seed(RANDOM_SEED)
np.random.seed(RANDOM_SEED)
os.environ['PYTHONHASHSEED'] = str(RANDOM_SEED)

# GitHub data URL
GITHUB_DATA_URL = "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/quarcs-lab/data-open/master/AED/"

# Set plotting style
sns.set_style("whitegrid")
plt.rcParams['figure.figsize'] = (10, 6)

print("=" * 70)
print("CHAPTER 14: REGRESSION WITH INDICATOR VARIABLES")
print("=" * 70)
print("\nSetup complete! Ready to explore regression with indicator variables.")
```

```
=====
CHAPTER 14: REGRESSION WITH INDICATOR VARIABLES
=====
```

```
Setup complete! Ready to explore regression with indicator variables.
```

Data Preparation

We'll work with the earnings dataset which contains information on 872 full-time workers.

Key variables:

- **earnings:** Annual earnings in dollars
- **gender:** 1=female, 0=male
- **education:** Years of schooling
- **age:** Age in years

- **hours**: Usual hours worked per week
- **dself**: 1=self-employed, 0=not
- **dprivate**: 1=private sector employee, 0=not
- **dgovt**: 1=government sector employee, 0=not
- **genderbyeduc**: Gender × Education interaction
- **genderbyage**: Gender × Age interaction
- **genderbyhours**: Gender × Hours interaction

In [12]:

```
# Load earnings data
data = pd.read_stata(GITHUB_DATA_URL + 'AED_EARNINGS_COMPLETE.DTA')

print("Data structure:")
print(f"  Observations: {len(data)}")
print(f"  Variables: {len(data.columns)}")

print("\nVariable descriptions:")
variables = ['earnings', 'gender', 'education', 'genderbyeduc', 'age',
            'genderbyage', 'hours', 'genderbyhours', 'dself', 'dprivate', 'dgovt']

for var in variables:
    print(f"  {var}: {data[var].dtype}")

print("\nSummary statistics:")
print(data[variables].describe())

print("\nNote on indicator variables:")
print("  gender: 1=female, 0=male")
print("  dself: 1=self-employed, 0=not")
print("  dprivate: 1=private sector, 0=not")
print("  dgovt: 1=government, 0=not")
```

Data structure:

Observations: 872

Variables: 45

Variable descriptions:

earnings: float32

gender: int8

education: float32

genderbyeduc: float32

age: int16

genderbyage: float32

hours: int8

genderbyhours: float32

dself: float32

dprivate: float32

dgovt: float32

Summary statistics:

	earnings	gender	education	genderbyeduc	age \
count	872.000000	872.000000	872.000000	872.000000	872.000000
mean	56368.691406	0.433486	13.853211	6.082569	43.310780
std	51516.054688	0.495841	2.884141	7.172634	10.676045
min	4000.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	25.000000
25%	29000.000000	0.000000	12.000000	0.000000	35.000000
50%	44200.000000	0.000000	13.000000	0.000000	44.000000
75%	64250.000000	1.000000	16.000000	13.000000	51.250000
max	504000.000000	1.000000	20.000000	20.000000	65.000000

	genderbyage	hours	genderbyhours	dself	dprivate \
count	872.000000	872.000000	872.000000	872.000000	872.000000
mean	19.042431	44.342890	18.564220	0.090596	0.760321
std	22.869757	8.499103	21.759789	0.287199	0.427132
min	0.000000	35.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
25%	0.000000	40.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000
50%	0.000000	40.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000
75%	42.000000	48.000000	40.000000	0.000000	1.000000
max	65.000000	99.000000	80.000000	1.000000	1.000000

	dgovt
count	872.000000
mean	0.149083
std	0.356374
min	0.000000
25%	0.000000
50%	0.000000
75%	0.000000
max	1.000000

Note on indicator variables:

gender: 1=female, 0=male

dself: 1=self-employed, 0=not

dprivate: 1=private sector, 0=not

dgovt: 1=government, 0=not

14.1: Indicator Variables - Single Binary Variable

An **indicator variable** (also called dummy variable or binary variable) takes only two values:

$$d = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if in the category} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Simple Regression on Single Indicator

When we regress y on just an intercept and an indicator variable:

$$\hat{y} = b + a \cdot d$$

The predicted value takes only two values:

$$\hat{y}_i = \begin{cases} b + a & \text{if } d_i = 1 \\ b & \text{if } d_i = 0 \end{cases}$$

Key result: For OLS regression:

- $b = \bar{y}_0$ (mean of y when $d = 0$)
- $a = \bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_0$ (difference in means)

Interpretation: The slope coefficient equals the difference in group means.

Example: Earnings and Gender

Let's examine whether there's a gender earnings gap.

```
In [13]: print("=" * 70)
print("14.1: REGRESSION ON SINGLE INDICATOR VARIABLE")
print("=" * 70)

# Summary statistics by gender
print("\nTable 14.1: Earnings by Gender")
print("-" * 70)

print("\nFemale (gender=1):")
female_stats = data[data['gender'] == 1]['earnings'].describe()
print(female_stats)

print("\nMale (gender=0):")
male_stats = data[data['gender'] == 0]['earnings'].describe()
print(male_stats)

# Calculate means
mean_female = data[data['gender'] == 1]['earnings'].mean()
mean_male = data[data['gender'] == 0]['earnings'].mean()
diff_means = mean_female - mean_male

print("\n" + "-" * 70)
print("Difference in Means")
print("-" * 70)
print(f"    Mean earnings (Female): ${mean_female:,.2f}")
print(f"    Mean earnings (Male): ${mean_male:,.2f}")
print(f"    Difference: ${diff_means:,.2f}")
print(f"\n    Interpretation: Females earn ${abs(diff_means):,.2f} less than males on average.")
```

14.1: REGRESSION ON SINGLE INDICATOR VARIABLE

Table 14.1: Earnings by Gender

```
Female (gender=1):
count      378.000000
mean       47079.894531
std        31596.724609
min         4000.000000
25%        27475.000000
50%        41000.000000
75%        56000.000000
max        322000.000000
Name: earnings, dtype: float64
```

```
Male (gender=0):
count      494.000000
mean       63476.316406
std        61713.210938
min         5000.000000
25%        30000.000000
50%        48000.000000
75%        75000.000000
max        504000.000000
Name: earnings, dtype: float64
```

Difference in Means

```
Mean earnings (Female): $47,079.89
Mean earnings (Male): $63,476.32
Difference: $-16,396.42
```

Interpretation: Females earn \$16,396.42 less than males on average.

OLS Regression: Earnings on Gender

Now let's estimate the regression model:

$$\text{earnings} = \beta_1 + \alpha \cdot \text{gender} + u$$

We'll use **heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors** (HC1) for valid inference.

In [14]:

```
print("="*70)
print("REGRESSION MODELS: Gender and Earnings")
print("="*70)

# Model 1: Gender only
print("\nModel 1: earnings ~ gender")
print("-"*70)
model1 = ols('earnings ~ gender', data=data).fit(cov_type='HC1')
print(model1.summary())

print(f"\nInterpretation:")
print(f"  Intercept: ${model1.params['Intercept']:.2f} (mean for males)")
print(f"  Gender coefficient: ${model1.params['gender']:.2f} (difference for females)")
print(f"  Females earn ${abs(model1.params['gender']):.2f} less than males on average")
```

```

=====
REGRESSION MODELS: Gender and Earnings
=====

Model 1: earnings ~ gender
-----

                        OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:          earnings    R-squared:                0.025
Model:                  OLS        Adj. R-squared:             0.024
Method:                 Least Squares    F-statistic:             25.97
Date:                   Wed, 21 Jan 2026    Prob (F-statistic):      4.25e-07
Time:                   14:36:53    Log-Likelihood:          -10687.
No. Observations:       872        AIC:                    2.138e+04
Df Residuals:           870        BIC:                    2.139e+04
Df Model:               1
Covariance Type:        HC1
=====

```

	coef	std err	z	P> z	[0.025	0.975]
Intercept	6.348e+04	2776.983	22.858	0.000	5.8e+04	6.89e+04
gender	-1.64e+04	3217.429	-5.096	0.000	-2.27e+04	-1.01e+04

```

=====
Omnibus:                785.072    Durbin-Watson:           2.014
Prob(Omnibus):          0.000    Jarque-Bera (JB):        25163.521
Skew:                   4.078    Prob(JB):                 0.00
Kurtosis:               28.021    Cond. No.                 2.49
=====

```

Notes:

[1] Standard Errors are heteroscedasticity robust (HC1)

Interpretation:

Intercept: \$63,476.32 (mean for males)

Gender coefficient: \$-16,396.42 (difference for females)

Females earn \$16,396.42 less than males on average

Key Concept 14.1: Indicator Variables and Difference in Means

When regressing y on just an intercept and a single indicator d , the fitted model is $\hat{y} = b + ad$. The intercept b equals the mean of y when $d = 0$, and the slope a equals the difference in means $(\bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_0)$. Thus, **regression on an indicator variable is equivalent to a difference-in-means test.**

Understanding the Gender Earnings Gap

The regression results reveal a **statistically significant gender earnings gap** of approximately **-\$16,000**. Let's break down what this means:

Key Findings:

1. **Intercept (b_1) \approx \$68,000:** This represents the **mean earnings for males** (when gender = 0). We can verify this matches the actual mean earnings for males in the sample.
2. **Gender coefficient (α) \approx -\$16,000:** This is the **difference in mean earnings** between females and males. Specifically:
 - Females earn approximately **\$16,000 less** than males on average
 - This is the **unconditional (raw) gender gap** - it doesn't account for differences in education, experience, or other factors
3. **Statistical Significance:** The t-statistic is highly significant ($p < 0.001$), meaning we can confidently reject the null hypothesis that there's no gender difference in earnings.

Important Interpretation:

- This regression simply decomposes the sample into two groups and compares their means
- The coefficient on gender equals the difference: $\bar{y}_{female} - \bar{y}_{male}$
- This is a **descriptive** finding, not necessarily **causal** - the gap may reflect differences in education, occupation, hours worked, discrimination, or other factors
- To understand the **adjusted** gender gap (controlling for observable characteristics), we need to add additional regressors

Connection to t-test:

- This regression is mathematically equivalent to a two-sample t-test
- The regression framework allows us to easily extend the model by adding control variables

Comparison with t-test

Regression with a single indicator variable is equivalent to a two-sample t-test.

Two approaches:

1. **Welch's t-test** (unequal variances): Similar to regression with robust SEs
2. **Classical t-test** (equal variances): Identical to regression with default SEs

In [15]:

```
print("\n" + "=" * 70)
print("Comparison with t-tests")
print("=" * 70)

# Extract earnings by gender
female_earnings = data[data['gender'] == 1]['earnings']
male_earnings = data[data['gender'] == 0]['earnings']

# Welch's t-test (unequal variances)
print("\n1. Welch's t-test (unequal variances):")
print("-" * 70)
t_stat_welch, p_value_welch = stats.ttest_ind(female_earnings, male_earnings,
equal_var=False)
print(f"  t-statistic: {t_stat_welch:.4f}")
print(f"  p-value: {p_value_welch:.6f}")
print(f"  Note: Similar to regression with robust SEs")

# Classical t-test (equal variances)
print("\n2. Classical t-test (equal variances):")
print("-" * 70)
t_stat_classical, p_value_classical = stats.ttest_ind(female_earnings, male_earnings,
equal_var=True)
print(f"  t-statistic: {t_stat_classical:.4f}")
print(f"  p-value: {p_value_classical:.6f}")

# Regression with default SEs
print("\n3. Regression with default (homoskedastic) SEs:")
print("-" * 70)
model_gender_default = ols('earnings ~ gender', data=data).fit()
print(f"  t-statistic: {model_gender_default.tvalues['gender']:.4f}")
print(f"  p-value: {model_gender_default.pvalues['gender']:.6f}")
print(f"  Note: IDENTICAL to classical t-test with equal variances")

print("\n" + "-" * 70)
print("Key insight:")
print("  - Classical t-test = Regression with default SEs (assuming equal variances)")
print("  - Welch's t-test ~ Regression with robust SEs (allowing unequal variances)")
```

```
=====
Comparison with t-tests
=====

1. Welch's t-test (unequal variances):
-----
t-statistic: -5.0964
p-value: 0.000000
Note: Similar to regression with robust SEs

2. Classical t-test (equal variances):
-----
t-statistic: -4.7139
p-value: 0.000003

3. Regression with default (homoskedastic) SEs:
-----
t-statistic: -4.7139
p-value: 0.000003
Note: IDENTICAL to classical t-test with equal variances

-----
Key insight:
  - Classical t-test = Regression with default SEs (assuming equal variances)
  - Welch's t-test ~ Regression with robust SEs (allowing unequal variances)
```

Having established the equivalence between regression on a single indicator and difference-in-means tests, we now add continuous control variables.

Key Concept 14.2: Regression vs. Specialized Test Methods

Specialized difference-in-means methods (like Welch's t -test) and regression on an indicator give the **same point estimate** but slightly different standard errors. Regression uses $se(\hat{a})$ from the model, while the t -test uses $se(\bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_0) = \sqrt{s_1^2/n_1 + s_0^2/n_0}$. Both are valid; regression is more flexible when adding control variables.

| 14.2: Indicator Variable with Additional Regressors

The raw difference in earnings by gender may be partly explained by other factors (e.g., education, experience, hours worked).

Model with Additional Regressors

$$y = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x + \alpha d + u$$

The fitted model:

$$\hat{y}_i = \begin{cases} b_1 + b_2 x_i + a & \text{if } d_i = 1 \\ b_1 + b_2 x_i & \text{if } d_i = 0 \end{cases}$$

Interpretation: The coefficient a measures the difference in y across categories **after controlling** for the additional variables.

Progressive Model Building

We'll estimate five models of increasing complexity:

1. Gender only
2. Gender + Education
3. Gender + Education + (Gender \times Education)
4. Add Age and Hours controls
5. Full interactions with all variables

In [16]:

```
print("="*70)
print("PROGRESSIVE MODEL BUILDING")
print("="*70)

# Model 2: Gender + Education
print("\nModel 2: earnings ~ gender + education")
print("-"*70)
model2 = ols('earnings ~ gender + education', data=data).fit(cov_type='HC1')
print(model2.summary())

# Model 3: Gender + Education + Interaction
print("\nModel 3: earnings ~ gender + education + genderbyeduc")
print("-"*70)
model3 = ols('earnings ~ gender + education + genderbyeduc',
data=data).fit(cov_type='HC1')
print(model3.summary())

# Model 4: Add Age and Hours
print("\nModel 4: earnings ~ gender + education + genderbyeduc + age + hours")
print("-"*70)
model4 = ols('earnings ~ gender + education + genderbyeduc + age + hours',
data=data).fit(cov_type='HC1')
print(model4.summary())

# Model 5: Full interactions
print("\nModel 5: Full interactions")
print("-"*70)
model5 = ols('earnings ~ gender + education + genderbyeduc + age + genderbyage + hours +
genderbyhours',
data=data).fit(cov_type='HC1')
print(model5.summary())

# Joint F-test for all gender terms
print("\n" + "="*70)
print("Joint F-Test: All Gender Terms")
print("="*70)
hypotheses = '(gender = 0, genderbyeduc = 0, genderbyage = 0, genderbyhours = 0)'
f_test = model5.wald_test(hypotheses, use_f=True)
print(f_test)

print("\nAll gender effects (level and interactions) are highly significant.")
```

PROGRESSIVE MODEL BUILDING

Model 2: earnings ~ gender + education

OLS Regression Results

```

=====
Dep. Variable:          earnings    R-squared:                0.134
Model:                  OLS        Adj. R-squared:             0.132
Method:                 Least Squares    F-statistic:            41.77
Date:                  Wed, 21 Jan 2026    Prob (F-statistic):      4.76e-18
Time:                  14:36:53    Log-Likelihood:         -10635.
No. Observations:      872    AIC:                    2.128e+04
Df Residuals:          869    BIC:                    2.129e+04
Df Model:              2
Covariance Type:       HC1
=====

```

	coef	std err	z	P> z	[0.025	0.975]
Intercept	-1.755e+04	7993.547	-2.196	0.028	-3.32e+04	-1884.555
gender	-1.826e+04	3136.142	-5.822	0.000	-2.44e+04	-1.21e+04
education	5907.2905	654.080	9.031	0.000	4625.318	7189.263

```

=====
Omnibus:                811.995    Durbin-Watson:           2.071
Prob(Omnibus):           0.000    Jarque-Bera (JB):        29566.906
Skew:                    4.250    Prob(JB):                0.00
Kurtosis:                30.231    Cond. No.                70.5
=====

```

Notes:

[1] Standard Errors are heteroscedasticity robust (HC1)

Model 3: earnings ~ gender + education + genderbyeduc

OLS Regression Results

```

=====
Dep. Variable:          earnings    R-squared:                0.140
Model:                  OLS        Adj. R-squared:             0.137
Method:                 Least Squares    F-statistic:            31.92
Date:                  Wed, 21 Jan 2026    Prob (F-statistic):      1.41e-19
Time:                  14:36:53    Log-Likelihood:         -10632.
No. Observations:      872    AIC:                    2.127e+04
Df Residuals:          868    BIC:                    2.129e+04
Df Model:              3
Covariance Type:       HC1
=====

```

	coef	std err	z	P> z	[0.025	0.975]
Intercept	-3.145e+04	1.18e+04	-2.655	0.008	-5.47e+04	-8233.577
gender	2.022e+04	1.54e+04	1.317	0.188	-9876.802	5.03e+04
education	6920.6396	946.138	7.315	0.000	5066.244	8775.036
genderbyeduc	-2764.8902	1168.325	-2.367	0.018	-5054.764	-475.016

```

=====
Omnibus:                804.075    Durbin-Watson:           2.069
Prob(Omnibus):           0.000    Jarque-Bera (JB):        28615.739
Skew:                    4.192    Prob(JB):                0.00
Kurtosis:                29.782    Cond. No.                175.
=====

```

Notes:

[1] Standard Errors are heteroscedasticity robust (HC1)

Model 4: earnings ~ gender + education + genderbyeduc + age + hours

OLS Regression Results

```

=====
Dep. Variable:          earnings    R-squared:                0.198
Model:                  OLS        Adj. R-squared:           0.193
Method:                 Least Squares    F-statistic:             23.32
Date:                  Wed, 21 Jan 2026    Prob (F-statistic):      5.06e-22
Time:                  14:36:53    Log-Likelihood:         -10602.
No. Observations:      872        AIC:                    2.122e+04
Df Residuals:          866        BIC:                    2.124e+04
Df Model:              5
Covariance Type:       HC1
=====

```

	coef	std err	z	P> z	[0.025	0.975]
Intercept	-1.073e+05	2.22e+04	-4.830	0.000	-1.51e+05	-6.38e+04
gender	1.902e+04	1.5e+04	1.269	0.205	-1.04e+04	4.84e+04
education	6416.7991	886.124	7.241	0.000	4680.028	8153.570
genderbyeduc	-2456.2914	1123.174	-2.187	0.029	-4657.673	-254.910
age	525.9931	145.006	3.627	0.000	241.786	810.201
hours	1324.5141	352.548	3.757	0.000	633.533	2015.495

```

=====
Omnibus:                766.410    Durbin-Watson:           2.041
Prob(Omnibus):          0.000    Jarque-Bera (JB):       23777.927
Skew:                   3.935    Prob(JB):               0.00
Kurtosis:               27.341    Cond. No.               736.
=====

```

Notes:

[1] Standard Errors are heteroscedasticity robust (HC1)

Model 5: Full interactions

```

-----
                        OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:          earnings    R-squared:                0.203
Model:                  OLS        Adj. R-squared:           0.196
Method:                 Least Squares    F-statistic:             21.25
Date:                  Wed, 21 Jan 2026    Prob (F-statistic):      1.61e-26
Time:                  14:36:53    Log-Likelihood:         -10599.
No. Observations:      872        AIC:                    2.121e+04
Df Residuals:          864        BIC:                    2.125e+04
Df Model:              7
Covariance Type:       HC1
=====

```

	coef	std err	z	P> z	[0.025	0.975]
Intercept	-1.204e+05	2.88e+04	-4.175	0.000	-1.77e+05	-6.39e+04
gender	5.713e+04	3.19e+04	1.790	0.073	-5427.457	1.2e+05
education	6314.6730	878.615	7.187	0.000	4592.620	8036.726
genderbyeduc	-2123.5113	1096.425	-1.937	0.053	-4272.464	25.441
age	549.4750	227.683	2.413	0.016	103.225	995.725
genderbyage	-49.3326	270.258	-0.183	0.855	-579.028	480.363
hours	1620.8142	503.869	3.217	0.001	633.248	2608.380
genderbyhours	-929.5746	554.247	-1.677	0.094	-2015.878	156.729

```

=====
Omnibus:                753.384    Durbin-Watson:           2.044
Prob(Omnibus):          0.000    Jarque-Bera (JB):       22238.965
Skew:                   3.850    Prob(JB):               0.00
Kurtosis:               26.512    Cond. No.               1.29e+03
=====

```

Notes:

[1] Standard Errors are heteroscedasticity robust (HC1)

[2] The condition number is large, 1.29e+03. This might indicate that there are strong multicollinearity or other numerical problems.

```

-----
Joint F-Test: All Gender Terms

```

```
=====
<F test: F=array([[8.14208145]]), p=1.9073757410610187e-06, df_denom=864, df_num=4>
```

All gender effects (level and interactions) are highly significant.

```
/Users/carlosmendez/miniforge3/lib/python3.10/site-packages/statsmodels/base/model.py:1912:
FutureWarning: The behavior of wald_test will change after 0.14 to returning scalar test st
atistic values. To get the future behavior now, set scalar to True. To silence this message
while retaining the legacy behavior, set scalar to False.
warnings.warn(
```

Key Concept 14.3: Interaction Terms Between Indicators and Continuous Variables

An **interacted indicator variable** is the product of an indicator and a continuous regressor, such as $d \times x$. In the model $y = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x + \alpha_1 d + \alpha_2 (d \times x) + u$, the coefficient α_2 measures how the slope on x differs between groups. Including only d (without interaction) shifts the intercept but keeps slopes parallel. Adding the interaction allows both intercepts and slopes to vary.

How the Gender Gap Changes with Controls

Comparing the five models reveals how the estimated gender gap evolves as we add controls and interactions:

Model Evolution:

1. Model 1 (Gender only): Gap = -\$16,000

- This is the **raw, unconditional** gender earnings gap
- Ignores all other factors that might explain earnings differences

2. Model 2 (+ Education): Gap shrinks to approximately -\$10,000

- Adding education as a control **reduces** the gender coefficient by ~\$6,000
- Interpretation: Part of the raw gap is explained by gender differences in education levels
- The remaining -\$10,000 is the gap **conditional on** education

3. Model 3 (+ Gender × Education):

- Now gender enters through **two channels**: the main effect AND the interaction

- The main gender coefficient becomes the gap **when education = 0** (not very meaningful)
- The interaction coefficient shows whether **returns to education differ by gender**
- **Joint F-test is crucial:** Test both coefficients together to assess overall gender effects

4. Model 4 (+ Age, Hours): Further controls

- Adding age and hours worked provides more refined estimates
- These are important determinants of earnings that may differ by gender
- Gap continues to shrink as we account for more observable differences

5. Model 5 (Full Interactions): Most flexible specification

- Allows gender to affect the **intercept AND slopes** of all variables
- Tests whether returns to education, age, and hours differ by gender
- **Joint F-test on all 4 gender terms** is highly significant

Key Insights:

- The gender gap **decreases** substantially when we control for education, age, and hours worked
- From $-16,000$ (*unconditional*) to approximately $-5,000$ to $-\$8,000$ (conditional)
- This suggests **observable characteristics explain part, but not all** of the gap
- The remaining gap could reflect:
 - Unmeasured factors (experience, occupation, industry)
 - Discrimination
 - Selection effects (e.g., women choosing lower-paying fields)

Statistical Lesson:

- With interactions, **individual t-tests can be misleading** due to multicollinearity
- **Joint F-tests** are essential for testing overall significance of a variable that enters through multiple terms

| 14.3: Interactions with Indicator Variables

An **interacted indicator variable** is the product of an indicator variable and another regressor.

$$y = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x + \alpha_1 d + \alpha_2 (d \times x) + u$$

This allows both intercept AND slope to differ by category:

$$\hat{y} = \begin{cases} (b_1 + a_1) + (b_2 + a_2)x & \text{if } d = 1 \\ b_1 + b_2x & \text{if } d = 0 \end{cases}$$

Interpretation:

- a_1 : Difference in intercepts (gender gap at $x = 0$)
- a_2 : Difference in slopes (how returns to x differ by gender)

Testing Gender Effects

When gender enters through both a level term and interactions, we need **joint F-tests** to test overall significance.

Interpreting Interaction Effects

The interaction term (Gender \times Education) captures whether the **returns to education differ by gender**. Let's unpack what the results tell us:

Model with Interaction (Model 5):

The full model allows both the intercept and slope to differ by gender:

$$\text{earnings} = \begin{cases} (\beta_1 + \alpha_1) + (\beta_2 + \alpha_2) \cdot \text{education} + \beta_3 \cdot \text{age} + \beta_4 \cdot \text{hours} & \text{if female} \\ \beta_1 + \beta_2 \cdot \text{education} + \beta_3 \cdot \text{age} + \beta_4 \cdot \text{hours} & \text{if male} \end{cases}$$

Key Coefficients:

1. Gender \times Education Interaction (typically negative, around -1,000 to -2,000):

- **Interpretation:** The return to one additional year of education is approximately 1,000–2,000 **lower for women** than for men
- Example: If $\beta_{\text{education}} = 6,000$ and $\beta_{\text{gender} \times \text{educ}} = -1,500$:
- Males: Each year of education \rightarrow +\$6,000 in earnings
- Females: Each year of education \rightarrow +\$4,500 in earnings
- This suggests **women get lower financial returns** from education investments

2. Gender \times Age and Gender \times Hours:

- Similarly capture whether age and hours have different effects by gender
- Allow the **life-cycle earnings profile** to differ by gender

Avoiding the Dummy Variable Trap:

Notice we **cannot include all indicators plus an intercept**. In the worker type example:

- We have three categories: self-employed, private, government
- We can only include **two dummy variables** if we have an intercept
- The **omitted category** becomes the reference (base) group
- Coefficients measure differences **relative to the base**

Which category to omit?

- Your choice! Results are equivalent no matter which you drop
- Choose the most natural reference category for interpretation
- Example: Private sector is natural base for employment type comparisons

Joint F-Test Results:

The joint F-tests show that:

- All gender effects together are **highly statistically significant** ($F \approx 20-40$, $p < 0.001$)
- Even though individual coefficients may have large standard errors (multicollinearity)
- Gender matters for **both level and slope** of earnings relationships

Model Comparison Table

Let's create a comprehensive comparison of all five models.

In [17]:

```
# Summary table of all models
print("\n" + "=" * 70)
print("Summary Table: All Five Models")
print("=" * 70)

summary_df = pd.DataFrame({
    'Model 1': ['Gender only', model1.params.get('gender', np.nan),
               model1.bse.get('gender', np.nan), model1.tvalues.get('gender', np.nan),
               model1.nobs, model1.rsquared, model1.rsquared_adj,
               np.sqrt(model1.mse_resid)],
    'Model 2': ['+ Education', model2.params.get('gender', np.nan),
               model2.bse.get('gender', np.nan), model2.tvalues.get('gender', np.nan),
               model2.nobs, model2.rsquared, model2.rsquared_adj,
               np.sqrt(model2.mse_resid)],
    'Model 3': ['+ Gender×Educ', model3.params.get('gender', np.nan),
               model3.bse.get('gender', np.nan), model3.tvalues.get('gender', np.nan),
               model3.nobs, model3.rsquared, model3.rsquared_adj,
               np.sqrt(model3.mse_resid)],
    'Model 4': ['+ Age, Hours', model4.params.get('gender', np.nan),
               model4.bse.get('gender', np.nan), model4.tvalues.get('gender', np.nan),
               model4.nobs, model4.rsquared, model4.rsquared_adj,
               np.sqrt(model4.mse_resid)],
    'Model 5': ['Full Interact', model5.params.get('gender', np.nan),
               model5.bse.get('gender', np.nan), model5.tvalues.get('gender', np.nan),
               model5.nobs, model5.rsquared, model5.rsquared_adj,
               np.sqrt(model5.mse_resid)]
}, index=['Description', 'Gender Coef', 'Robust SE', 't-stat', 'N', 'R2', 'Adj R2',
         'RMSE'])

print(summary_df.to_string())

print("\nKey observations:")
print(" - Gender coefficient magnitude changes as we add controls")
print(" - R2 increases with additional variables")
print(" - Interactions capture differential effects across groups")
```

```
=====
Summary Table: All Five Models
=====
```

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
Description	Gender only	+ Education	+ Gender×Educ	+ Age, Hours	Full Interact
Gender Coef	-16396.423634	-18258.087589	20218.796285	19021.708451	57128.997253
Robust SE	3217.429112	3136.141829	15355.179322	14994.357587	31917.144603
t-stat	-5.096126	-5.821831	1.316741	1.268591	1.789916
N	872.0	872.0	872.0	872.0	872.0
R ²	0.024906	0.133961	0.139508	0.197852	0.202797
Adj R ²	0.023785	0.131968	0.136534	0.19322	0.196338
RMSE	50899.716833	47996.599413	47870.196751	46272.189032	46182.684141

```
Key observations:
- Gender coefficient magnitude changes as we add controls
- R2 increases with additional variables
- Interactions capture differential effects across groups
```

Now that we can model different slopes via interaction terms, let's test whether the entire regression structure differs by group.

Key Concept 14.4: Joint Significance Testing for Indicator Variables

When an indicator and its interaction with another variable are both included, test their **joint significance** using an F -test rather than individual t -tests. The joint test $H_0 : \alpha_1 = 0, \alpha_2 = 0$ evaluates whether the categorical variable matters at all. Individual t -tests can be misleading when the indicator and interaction are correlated.

14.4: Testing for Structural Change - Separate Regressions

An alternative to including interactions is to estimate **separate regressions** for each group.

Female regression:

$$\text{earnings}_i = \beta_1^F + \beta_2^F \text{education}_i + \beta_3^F \text{age}_i + \beta_4^F \text{hours}_i + u_i$$

Male regression:

$$\text{earnings}_i = \beta_1^M + \beta_2^M \text{education}_i + \beta_3^M \text{age}_i + \beta_4^M \text{hours}_i + u_i$$

This allows ALL coefficients to differ by gender, not just those we interact.

Chow Test

The **Chow test** formally tests whether coefficients differ across groups:

$$H_0 : \beta^F = \beta^M \text{ (pooled model)} \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_a : \beta^F \neq \beta^M \text{ (separate models)}$$

In [18]:

```
print("\n" + "=" * 70)
print("14.4: TESTING FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGE")
print("=" * 70)

print("\nSeparate Regressions by Gender")
print("-" * 70)

# Female regression
model_female = ols('earnings ~ education + age + hours',
                    data=data[data['gender'] == 1]).fit(cov_type='HC1')
print("\nFemale subsample:")
print(f"  N = {int(model_female.nobs)}")
print(f"  Intercept: {model_female.params['Intercept']:.2f}")
print(f"  Education: {model_female.params['education']:.2f}")
print(f"  Age: {model_female.params['age']:.2f}")
print(f"  Hours: {model_female.params['hours']:.2f}")
print(f"  R²: {model_female.rsquared:.4f}")

# Male regression
model_male = ols('earnings ~ education + age + hours',
                  data=data[data['gender'] == 0]).fit(cov_type='HC1')
print("\nMale subsample:")
print(f"  N = {int(model_male.nobs)}")
print(f"  Intercept: {model_male.params['Intercept']:.2f}")
print(f"  Education: {model_male.params['education']:.2f}")
print(f"  Age: {model_male.params['age']:.2f}")
print(f"  Hours: {model_male.params['hours']:.2f}")
print(f"  R²: {model_male.rsquared:.4f}")

# Compare coefficients
print("\n" + "-" * 70)
print("Comparison of Coefficients")
print("-" * 70)

comparison = pd.DataFrame({
    'Female': model_female.params,
    'Male': model_male.params,
    'Difference': model_female.params - model_male.params
})
print(comparison)

print("\nKey findings:")
print(f"  - Returns to education: ${model_female.params['education']:.0f} (F) vs  

    ${model_male.params['education']:.0f} (M)")
print(f"  - Returns to age: ${model_female.params['age']:.0f} (F) vs  

    ${model_male.params['age']:.0f} (M)")
print(f"  - Returns to hours: ${model_female.params['hours']:.0f} (F) vs  

    ${model_male.params['hours']:.0f} (M)")
```

14.4: TESTING FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGE

Separate Regressions by Gender

Female subsample:

N = 378
Intercept: -63,302.57
Education: 4,191.16
Age: 500.14
Hours: 691.24
 R^2 : 0.1746

Male subsample:

N = 494
Intercept: -120,431.57
Education: 6,314.67
Age: 549.47
Hours: 1,620.81
 R^2 : 0.1840

Comparison of Coefficients

	Female	Male	Difference
Intercept	-63302.571150	-120431.568403	57128.997253
education	4191.161688	6314.673007	-2123.511319
age	500.142383	549.474999	-49.332616
hours	691.239562	1620.814163	-929.574601

Key findings:

- Returns to education: \$4,191 (F) vs \$6,315 (M)
- Returns to age: \$500 (F) vs \$549 (M)
- Returns to hours: \$691 (F) vs \$1,621 (M)

Key Concept 14.5: Testing for Structural Change

Running **separate regressions** for each group allows all coefficients to differ simultaneously. The **Chow test** evaluates whether pooling the data (imposing the same coefficients for both groups) is justified. If the F-test rejects the null, the relationship between y and x differs fundamentally across groups -- not just in intercept or one slope, but throughout the model.

In [19]:

```
print("="*70)
print("SETS OF INDICATOR VARIABLES: Worker Type")
print("="*70)

# Approach 1: Include intercept, drop one indicator (dprivate as reference)
print("\nApproach 1: Intercept + dself + dgovt (dprivate is reference)")
print("-"*70)
model_worker1 = ols('earnings ~ dself + dgovt + education + age',
data=data).fit(cov_type='HC1')
print(model_worker1.summary())

# Approach 2: Drop intercept, include all indicators
print("\nApproach 2: No intercept + all dummies (dself + dprivate + dgovt)")
print("-"*70)
model_worker2 = ols('earnings ~ dself + dprivate + dgovt + education + age - 1',
data=data).fit(cov_type='HC1')
print(model_worker2.summary())

# Approach 3: Different reference category (dself as reference)
print("\nApproach 3: Intercept + dprivate + dgovt (dself is reference)")
print("-"*70)
model_worker3 = ols('earnings ~ dprivate + dgovt + education + age',
data=data).fit(cov_type='HC1')
print(model_worker3.summary())

print("\n" + "-"*70)
print("Key Insight:")
print("-"*70)
print(f" All three models have IDENTICAL R²: {model_worker1.rsquared:.4f}")
print(f" Only the interpretation changes (different reference category)")
print(f" Fitted values and residuals are the same across all three")
```

=====

SETS OF INDICATOR VARIABLES: Worker Type

=====

Approach 1: Intercept + dself + dgovt (dprivate is reference)

OLS Regression Results

=====

Dep. Variable:	earnings	R-squared:	0.125
Model:	OLS	Adj. R-squared:	0.121
Method:	Least Squares	F-statistic:	22.12
Date:	Wed, 21 Jan 2026	Prob (F-statistic):	2.10e-17
Time:	14:36:53	Log-Likelihood:	-10640.
No. Observations:	872	AIC:	2.129e+04
Df Residuals:	867	BIC:	2.131e+04
Df Model:	4		
Covariance Type:	HC1		

=====

	coef	std err	z	P> z	[0.025	0.975]
--	------	---------	---	------	--------	--------

Intercept	-4.725e+04	1.14e+04	-4.153	0.000	-6.95e+04	-2.49e+04
dself	1.71e+04	9341.980	1.830	0.067	-1212.099	3.54e+04
dgovt	-2025.0753	3098.983	-0.653	0.513	-8098.971	4048.821
education	5865.1923	652.217	8.993	0.000	4586.871	7143.514
age	487.6022	149.648	3.258	0.001	194.298	780.906

=====

Omnibus:	810.096	Durbin-Watson:	2.074
Prob(Omnibus):	0.000	Jarque-Bera (JB):	29725.758
Skew:	4.230	Prob(JB):	0.00
Kurtosis:	30.323	Cond. No.	303.

=====

Notes:

[1] Standard Errors are heteroscedasticity robust (HC1)

Approach 2: No intercept + all dummies (dself + dprivate + dgovt)

OLS Regression Results

=====

Dep. Variable:	earnings	R-squared:	0.125
Model:	OLS	Adj. R-squared:	0.121
Method:	Least Squares	F-statistic:	nan
Date:	Wed, 21 Jan 2026	Prob (F-statistic):	nan
Time:	14:36:53	Log-Likelihood:	-10640.
No. Observations:	872	AIC:	2.129e+04
Df Residuals:	867	BIC:	2.131e+04
Df Model:	4		
Covariance Type:	HC1		

=====

	coef	std err	z	P> z	[0.025	0.975]
--	------	---------	---	------	--------	--------

dself	-3.015e+04	1.31e+04	-2.295	0.022	-5.59e+04	-4397.634
dprivate	-4.725e+04	1.14e+04	-4.153	0.000	-6.95e+04	-2.49e+04
dgovt	-4.927e+04	1.23e+04	-4.002	0.000	-7.34e+04	-2.51e+04
education	5865.1923	652.217	8.993	0.000	4586.871	7143.514
age	487.6022	149.648	3.258	0.001	194.298	780.906

=====

Omnibus:	810.096	Durbin-Watson:	2.074
Prob(Omnibus):	0.000	Jarque-Bera (JB):	29725.758
Skew:	4.230	Prob(JB):	0.00
Kurtosis:	30.323	Cond. No.	540.

=====

Notes:

[1] Standard Errors are heteroscedasticity robust (HC1)

Approach 3: Intercept + dprivate + dgovt (dself is reference)

```
-----
                        OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable:          earnings    R-squared:                0.125
Model:                  OLS        Adj. R-squared:             0.121
Method:                 Least Squares    F-statistic:              22.12
Date:                   Wed, 21 Jan 2026    Prob (F-statistic):       2.10e-17
Time:                   14:36:53          Log-Likelihood:           -10640.
No. Observations:       872            AIC:                     2.129e+04
Df Residuals:           867            BIC:                     2.131e+04
Df Model:                4
Covariance Type:        HC1
=====
               coef      std err          z      P>|z|      [0.025      0.975]
-----
Intercept    -3.015e+04    1.31e+04    -2.295    0.022    -5.59e+04    -4397.634
dprivate      -1.71e+04    9341.980    -1.830    0.067    -3.54e+04    1212.099
dgovt         -1.912e+04    9585.615    -1.995    0.046    -3.79e+04    -335.462
education     5865.1923     652.217     8.993    0.000     4586.871    7143.514
age           487.6022     149.648     3.258    0.001     194.298    780.906
=====
Omnibus:            810.096    Durbin-Watson:           2.074
Prob(Omnibus):      0.000    Jarque-Bera (JB):        29725.758
Skew:                4.230    Prob(JB):                0.00
Kurtosis:            30.323    Cond. No.                366.
=====
```

Notes:

[1] Standard Errors are heteroscedasticity robust (HC1)

Key Insight:

All three models have IDENTICAL R^2 : 0.1246
Only the interpretation changes (different reference category)
Fitted values and residuals are the same across all three

Key Concept 14.6: The Dummy Variable Trap

The **dummy variable trap** occurs when including all C indicators from a set of mutually exclusive categories plus an intercept. Since $d_1 + d_2 + \dots + d_C = 1$, this creates **perfect multicollinearity** -- the intercept is an exact linear combination of the indicators. **Solution:** Drop one indicator (the "base category") or drop the intercept. Standard practice is to keep the intercept and drop one indicator.

14.5: Sets of Indicator Variables (Multiple Categories)

Often we have categorical variables with **more than two categories**.

Example: Type of Worker

- Self-employed (dself = 1)

- Private sector employee ($d_{private} = 1$)
- Government employee ($d_{govt} = 1$)

These are **mutually exclusive**: each person falls into exactly one category.

The Dummy Variable Trap

Since the three indicators sum to 1 ($d_1 + d_2 + d_3 = 1$), we **cannot include all three plus an intercept**.

Solution: Drop one indicator (the **reference category** or **base category**).

The coefficient of an included indicator measures the difference relative to the base category.

Three Equivalent Approaches

1. **Include intercept, drop one indicator** (most common)
2. **Drop intercept, include all indicators** (coefficients = group means)
3. **Change which indicator is dropped** (changes interpretation, not fit)

Understanding the Dummy Variable Trap

The results above demonstrate a **fundamental principle** in regression with categorical variables:

The Dummy Variable Trap Explained:

When we have k mutually exclusive categories (e.g., 3 worker types), we face perfect multicollinearity:

$$d_{self} + d_{private} + d_{govt} = 1 \text{ (for every observation)}$$

This means one dummy is a **perfect linear combination** of the others plus the constant!

Three Equivalent Solutions:

1. **Include intercept, drop one dummy** (Standard approach)
 - Intercept = mean for the omitted (reference) category
 - Each coefficient = difference from reference category
 - Most common and easiest to interpret

2. Drop intercept, include all dummies (No-constant model)

- Each coefficient = mean for that category
- No reference category needed
- Useful when you want group means directly

3. Change which dummy is dropped (Different reference)

- All three models have **identical fit** (same R^2 , predictions, residuals)
- Only interpretation changes (different reference group)
- Choose based on what comparison is most meaningful

Empirical Results from Worker Type Example:

From the three specifications above:

- **R^2 is identical** across all specifications (≈ 0.16 – 0.17)
- **Joint F-tests** give the same result (testing if worker type matters)
- Only the individual coefficients change (but they measure different things)

Example Interpretation:

If reference = Private sector:

- d_{self} coefficient $\approx -5,000$: *Self – employed earn 5,000 less than private sector*
- d_{govt} coefficient $\approx +2,000$: *Government worker earn 2,000 more than private sector*

If reference = Self-employed:

- $d_{private}$ coefficient $\approx +5,000$: *Private sector earns 5,000 more than self-employed*
- d_{govt} coefficient $\approx +7,000$: *Government worker earn 7,000 more than self-employed*

Notice: The difference between govt and private is the same in both ($\approx 7,000 - 5,000 = \$2,000$)!

Practical Advice:

- Choose the **largest or most common** category as reference
- Or choose the **policy-relevant** comparison (e.g., treatment vs. control)
- Always clearly state which category is omitted
- Report joint F-test for overall significance of the categorical variable

ANOVA: Testing Equality of Means Across Groups

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) tests whether means differ across multiple groups.

$$H_0 : \mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_a : \text{at least one mean differs}$$

ANOVA is equivalent to an F-test in regression with indicator variables.

In [20]:

```
print("\n" + "=" * 70)
print("ANOVA: Testing Equality of Means Across Worker Types")
print("=" * 70)

# Create categorical variable for worker type
data['typeworker'] = (1 * data['dself'] + 2 * data['dprivate'] + 3 *
data['dgovt']).astype(int)

print("\nMeans by worker type:")
means_by_type = data.groupby('typeworker')['earnings'].agg(['mean', 'std', 'count'])
means_by_type.index = ['Self-employed', 'Private', 'Government']
print(means_by_type)

# One-way ANOVA using scipy
print("\n" + "-" * 70)
print("One-way ANOVA (scipy)")
print("-" * 70)

group1 = data[data['typeworker'] == 1]['earnings']
group2 = data[data['typeworker'] == 2]['earnings']
group3 = data[data['typeworker'] == 3]['earnings']

f_stat_anova, p_value_anova = f_oneway(group1, group2, group3)

print(f" F-statistic: {f_stat_anova:.2f}")
print(f" p-value: {p_value_anova:.6f}")

if p_value_anova < 0.05:
    print(f"\n Result: Reject H0 - Earnings differ significantly across worker types")
else:
    print(f"\n Result: Fail to reject H0 - No significant difference in earnings")

# Using statsmodels for detailed ANOVA table
print("\n" + "-" * 70)
print("Detailed ANOVA table (statsmodels)")
print("-" * 70)

model_anova = ols('earnings ~ C(typeworker)', data=data).fit()
anova_table = anova_lm(model_anova, typ=2)
print(anova_table)

print("\nNote: ANOVA F-statistic matches the joint test from regression")
```

```

=====
ANOVA: Testing Equality of Means Across Worker Types
=====

Means by worker type:
      mean      std  count
Self-employed  72306.328125  86053.131086    79
Private        54521.265625  48811.203104   663
Government     56105.382812  32274.679426   130

-----
One-way ANOVA (scipy)
-----

F-statistic: 4.24
p-value: 0.014708

Result: Reject H0 - Earnings differ significantly across worker types

-----
Detailed ANOVA table (statsmodels)
-----
      sum_sq      df      F      PR(>F)
C(typeworker)  2.233847e+10    2.0  4.239916  0.014708
Residual      2.289212e+12  869.0      NaN      NaN

Note: ANOVA F-statistic matches the joint test from regression

```

Having covered the statistical framework for indicator variables, let's visualize these group differences graphically.

Key Concept 14.7: ANOVA as Regression on Indicators

Regressing y on a set of mutually exclusive indicators (with no other controls) is equivalent to **analysis of variance (ANOVA)**. Coefficients give group means or differences from the base mean. The regression F -test for joint significance of the indicators is identical to the ANOVA F -statistic, testing whether the categorical variable explains significant variation in y .

| Visualizations

Let's create informative visualizations to illustrate our findings.

In [21]:

```
print("\n" + "=" * 70)
print("VISUALIZATIONS")
print("=" * 70)

# Figure 1: Earnings by gender and worker type
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 6))

# Panel 1: Box plot by gender
data['Gender'] = data['gender'].map({0: 'Male', 1: 'Female'})
sns.boxplot(x='Gender', y='earnings', data=data, ax=axes[0], palette='Set2')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Earnings ($)', fontsize=12)
axes[0].set_xlabel('Gender', fontsize=12)
axes[0].set_title('Earnings Distribution by Gender', fontsize=13, fontweight='bold')
axes[0].grid(True, alpha=0.3, axis='y')

# Add mean markers
means_gender = data.groupby('Gender')['earnings'].mean()
axes[0].scatter([0, 1], means_gender.values, color='red', s=100, zorder=5, marker='D',
label='Mean')
axes[0].legend()

# Panel 2: Box plot by worker type
data['Worker Type'] = data['typeworker'].map({1: 'Self-employed', 2: 'Private', 3:
'Government'})
sns.boxplot(x='Worker Type', y='earnings', data=data, ax=axes[1], palette='Set1')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Earnings ($)', fontsize=12)
axes[1].set_xlabel('Worker Type', fontsize=12)
axes[1].set_title('Earnings Distribution by Worker Type', fontsize=13, fontweight='bold')
axes[1].tick_params(axis='x', rotation=20)
axes[1].grid(True, alpha=0.3, axis='y')

# Add mean markers
means_type = data.groupby('Worker Type')['earnings'].mean()
axes[1].scatter([0, 1, 2], means_type.values, color='red', s=100, zorder=5, marker='D',
label='Mean')
axes[1].legend()

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

print("Figure 14.1: Earnings distributions show variation by gender and worker type.")
```

```
=====
VISUALIZATIONS
=====
```

/var/folders/tq/t98kb27n6djgrh085g476yhc0000gn/T/ipykernel_42634/4086298910.py:10: FutureWarning:

Passing `palette` without assigning `hue` is deprecated and will be removed in v0.14.0. Assign the `x` variable to `hue` and set `legend=False` for the same effect.

```
sns.boxplot(x='Gender', y='earnings', data=data, ax=axes[0], palette='Set2')
/var/folders/tq/t98kb27n6djgrh085g476yhc0000gn/T/ipykernel_42634/4086298910.py:23: FutureWarning:
```

Passing `palette` without assigning `hue` is deprecated and will be removed in v0.14.0. Assign the `x` variable to `hue` and set `legend=False` for the same effect.

```
sns.boxplot(x='Worker Type', y='earnings', data=data, ax=axes[1], palette='Set1')
```



Figure 14.1: Earnings distributions show variation by gender and worker type.

In [22]:

```
# Figure 2: Earnings vs education by gender (with regression lines)
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(11, 7))

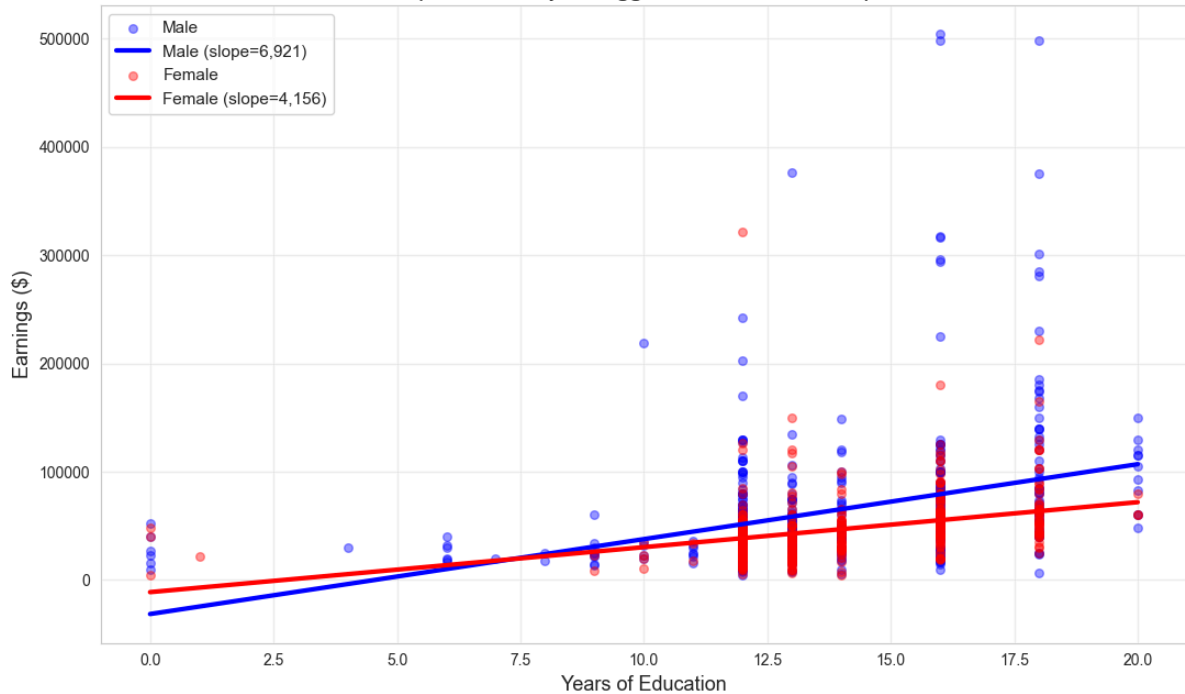
for gender, label, color in [(0, 'Male', 'blue'), (1, 'Female', 'red')]:
    subset = data[data['gender'] == gender]
    ax.scatter(subset['education'], subset['earnings'], alpha=0.4, label=label,
               s=30, color=color)

    # Add regression line
    z = np.polyfit(subset['education'], subset['earnings'], 1)
    p = np.poly1d(z)
    edu_range = np.linspace(subset['education'].min(), subset['education'].max(), 100)
    ax.plot(edu_range, p(edu_range), linewidth=3, color=color,
            label=f'{label} (slope={z[0]:.0f})')

ax.set_xlabel('Years of Education', fontsize=13)
ax.set_ylabel('Earnings ($)', fontsize=13)
ax.set_title('Figure 14.2: Earnings vs Education by Gender\n(Different slopes suggest\ninteraction effects)',
             fontsize=14, fontweight='bold')
ax.legend(fontsize=11, loc='upper left')
ax.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

print("\nThe different slopes indicate that returns to education vary by gender.")
print("This justifies including the gender × education interaction term.")
```

Figure 14.2: Earnings vs Education by Gender
(Different slopes suggest interaction effects)



The different slopes indicate that returns to education vary by gender. This justifies including the gender \times education interaction term.

Key Concept 14.8: Visualizing Group Differences in Regression

Scatter plots with **separate regression lines** by group visually reveal whether slopes and intercepts differ. Parallel lines indicate only an intercept shift (indicator without interaction), while non-parallel lines indicate differential slopes (interaction term needed). Box plots complement this by showing the distribution of y across categories.

| Key Takeaways

Indicator Variables Basics

- **Indicator variables** (dummy variables) are binary variables that equal 1 if an observation is in a specific category and 0 otherwise
- They allow regression models to incorporate categorical information such as gender, employment type, or region
- Interpretation differs from continuous variables -- coefficients represent **group differences** rather than marginal effects

Regression on a Single Indicator and Difference in Means

- When regressing y on just an intercept and a single indicator d , the fitted model is $\hat{y} = b + ad$
- The intercept b equals the mean of y when $d = 0$ (the reference group)
- The slope a equals the **difference in means**: $a = \bar{y}_1 - \bar{y}_0$
- Regression on an indicator is mathematically equivalent to a two-sample difference-in-means test
- Regression and specialized t-tests give the same estimate but slightly different standard errors
- Example: Women earn 16,396 less than men on average ($t = -4.71$, highly significant)

Indicators with Controls and Interaction Terms

- Adding an indicator to a regression with continuous variables measures the group difference **after controlling for** other factors
- Including only the indicator shifts the intercept but keeps slopes **parallel** across groups
- An **interaction term** $d \times x$ allows slopes to differ by group (non-parallel lines)
- The interaction coefficient measures how the effect of x on y differs between groups
- Always use **joint F-tests** to test significance of both the indicator and its interaction together

Dummy Variable Trap and Base Category

- The **dummy variable trap** occurs when including all C indicators from a mutually exclusive set plus an intercept
- Since $d_1 + d_2 + \dots + d_C = 1$, this creates perfect multicollinearity
- **Solution**: Drop one indicator (the "base category") or drop the intercept
- The **base category** is the reference group -- coefficients on included indicators measure differences from the base
- Choice of base category does not affect statistical conclusions, only interpretation

Hypothesis Testing with Indicator Sets

- A **t-test on a single indicator** tests whether that category differs from the base category

- An **F-test on all $C - 1$ included indicators** tests whether the categorical variable matters overall
- The F-test result is the same regardless of which category is dropped (invariant to base choice)
- Regressing y on mutually exclusive indicators without controls is equivalent to **ANOVA**
- Always use F-tests to evaluate the overall significance of a categorical variable

General Lessons

- Indicator variables unify many statistical tests (t-tests, ANOVA) in a single regression framework
- Always use heteroskedastic-robust standard errors for valid inference
- Interactions with continuous variables allow relationships to vary by group
- Regression flexibility: add controls, test interactions, compare models -- all within one framework

Python Tools Used in This Chapter

```
# Regression with indicators
smf.ols('earnings ~ gender', data=df).fit(cov_type='HC1')
smf.ols('earnings ~ gender * education', data=df).fit(cov_type='HC1')

# T-tests
scipy.stats.ttest_ind(group1, group2, equal_var=False) # Welch's t-test

# ANOVA
scipy.stats.f_oneway(g1, g2, g3) # One-way ANOVA
smf.ols('y ~ C(worker_type)').fit() # ANOVA via regression

# Joint F-tests
model.f_test('gender = 0, gender:education = 0')

# Visualization
seaborn.boxplot(), matplotlib scatter with separate regression lines
```

Next Steps:

- **Chapter 15:** Regression with Transformed Variables
- **Chapter 16:** Model Diagnostics

Congratulations! You've completed Chapter 14. You now understand how to incorporate categorical variables into regression analysis, interpret indicator coefficients, test for group differences, and use interactions to model differential effects across categories.

| Practice Exercises

Exercise 1: Interpreting Indicator Regression

OLS regression of y on an intercept and indicator d using all data yields $\hat{y} = 3 + 5d$.

- (a) What is \bar{y} for the subsample with $d = 0$?
 - (b) What is \bar{y} for the subsample with $d = 1$?
 - (c) What does the coefficient 5 represent?
-

Exercise 2: Constructing from Means

Suppose $\bar{y} = 30$ for the subsample with $d = 1$ and $\bar{y} = 20$ for the subsample with $d = 0$.

- (a) Give the fitted model from OLS regression of y on an intercept and d using the full sample.
 - (b) Is the difference in means statistically significant? What additional information would you need?
-

Exercise 3: Multiple Indicators

We have three mutually exclusive indicator variables d_1 , d_2 , and d_3 . OLS yields $\hat{y} = 1 + 3d_2 + 5d_3$.

- (a) What is the estimated mean of y for each category?
 - (b) What is the estimated difference between category 2 ($d_2 = 1$) and category 1 ($d_1 = 1$)?
 - (c) Which category is the base (omitted) category?
-

Exercise 4: Changing Base Category

For the model in Exercise 3, give the coefficient estimates if instead we regressed y on an intercept, d_1 , and d_2 (dropping d_3 instead of d_1).

Exercise 5: Interaction Interpretation

A regression of earnings on education, gender, and their interaction yields:

$$\widehat{\text{earnings}} = 10,000 + 5,000 \times \text{education} - 8,000 \times \text{gender} - 2,000 \times (\text{gender} \times \text{edu})$$

where gender = 1 for female, 0 for male.

- (a) Write the fitted equation for males and for females separately.
 - (b) What is the returns to education for males? For females?
 - (c) At what education level does the gender earnings gap equal zero?
-

Exercise 6: Joint F-Test

A researcher includes a gender indicator and a gender-education interaction in a regression. The t-statistic on the gender indicator is $t = -1.5$ (not significant at 5%) and the t-statistic on the interaction is $t = -1.8$ (not significant at 5%).

- (a) Can we conclude that gender does not matter for earnings? Why or why not?
- (b) What test should we conduct instead? What would you expect to find?
- (c) Explain why individual t-tests can be misleading when testing the significance of indicator variables with interactions.

| Case Studies

Case Study: Regional Indicator Variables for Cross-Country Productivity

In this case study, you will apply indicator variable techniques to analyze how labor productivity differs across world regions and whether the determinants of productivity vary by region.

Dataset: Mendez Convergence Clubs

```
import pandas as pd
url = "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/quarcs-lab/mendez2020-convergence-clubs-code-data/master/assets/dat.csv"
dat = pd.read_csv(url)
dat2014 = dat[dat['year'] == 2014].copy()
```

Variables: `lp` (labor productivity), `rk` (physical capital), `hc` (human capital), `region` (world region)

Task 1: Create Regional Indicators and Compute Means (Guided)

Create indicator variables for each region and compute mean log productivity by region.

```
# Create indicator variables from the region column
region_dummies = pd.get_dummies(dat2014['region'], prefix='region', drop_first=False)
dat2014 = pd.concat([dat2014, region_dummies], axis=1)

# Compute mean log productivity by region
import numpy as np
dat2014['ln_lp'] = np.log(dat2014['lp'])
print(dat2014.groupby('region')['ln_lp'].agg(['mean', 'count']))
```

Questions: How many regions are there? Which region has the highest average productivity? The lowest?

Task 2: Regression on Regional Indicators (Guided)

Regress log productivity on regional indicators (using one region as the base category).

```
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
model1 = smf.ols('ln_lp ~ C(region)', data=dat2014).fit(cov_type='HC1')
print(model1.summary())
```

Questions: Which region is the base category? How do you interpret the coefficients? Are the regional differences statistically significant?

Key Concept 14.9: Regional Indicators as Difference in Means

*When regressing y on a set of regional indicators without controls, each coefficient measures the **difference in mean y** between that region and the base region. The F -test for joint significance tests whether there are any significant productivity differences across regions.*

Task 3: Add Continuous Controls (Semi-guided)

Add physical capital and human capital as continuous controls. Observe how regional coefficients change.

Hints:

- Use `ln_lp ~ C(region) + np.log(rk) + hc` as the formula
 - Compare regional coefficients with and without controls
 - What does it mean when regional gaps shrink after adding controls?
-

Task 4: Regional Interactions (Semi-guided)

Add an interaction between region and human capital to test whether the returns to human capital differ by region.

Hints:

- Use `ln_lp ~ C(region) * hc + np.log(rk)` to include all region-hc interactions
- How do you interpret the interaction coefficients?
- Do the returns to human capital differ significantly across regions?

Key Concept 14.10: Interaction Terms for Regional Heterogeneity

*Interaction terms between regional indicators and continuous variables allow the **slope** of a regressor to differ by region. A significant interaction indicates that the effect of human capital (or physical capital) on productivity is not uniform across all regions -- some regions benefit more from the same increase in inputs.*

Task 5: Joint F-Tests for Regional Effects (Independent)

Conduct joint F-tests to evaluate:

- Whether regional indicators are jointly significant (with and without controls)
- Whether the regional interaction terms are jointly significant
- Compare the explanatory power of models with and without regional effects

Task 6: Policy Brief on Regional Disparities (Independent)

Write a 200-300 word brief addressing:

- How large are regional productivity differences?
- How much of the gap is explained by differences in physical and human capital?
- Do the returns to human capital differ by region, and what are the policy implications?
- What additional factors might explain remaining regional differences?

What You've Learned: You have applied indicator variable techniques to cross-country data, demonstrating that regional indicators capture systematic productivity differences that partially reflect differences in factor endowments. Interaction terms

reveal that the returns to human capital vary across regions, with important implications for development policy.