



# Getting Back to (Productivity) Growth

# **Government Economic Service Conference**

# Anna Valero and John Van Reenen, Programme on Innovation and Diffusion, LSE October 13<sup>th</sup> 2023









# Roadmap

- UK faces a huge growth challenge following recent "polycrises", but problems began earlier....
- What is productivity, and why is it key to growth?
- Where does the UK stand?
- What policies could help generate (equitable and sustainable) productivity growth?

## **OUTLINE OF TALK**

**Productivity Basics** 

Defending Productivity Growth

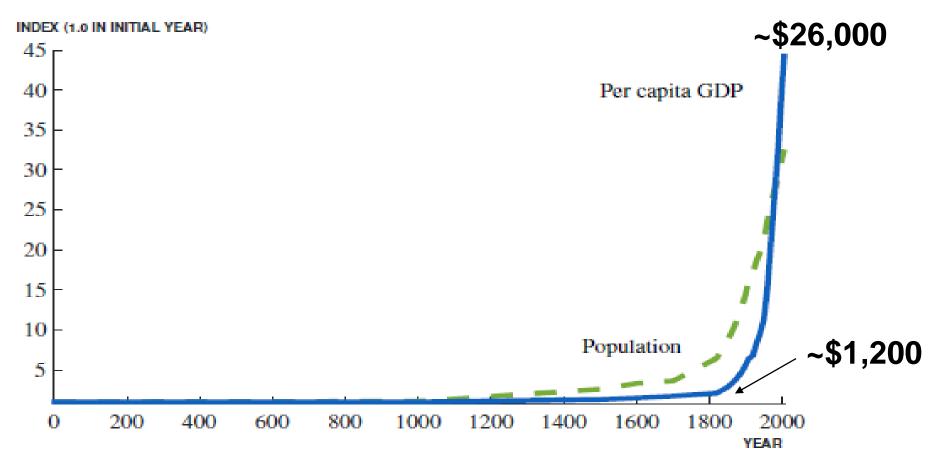
Explaining Productivity Growth

**Productivity Policies** 

# Why does Growth Matter?

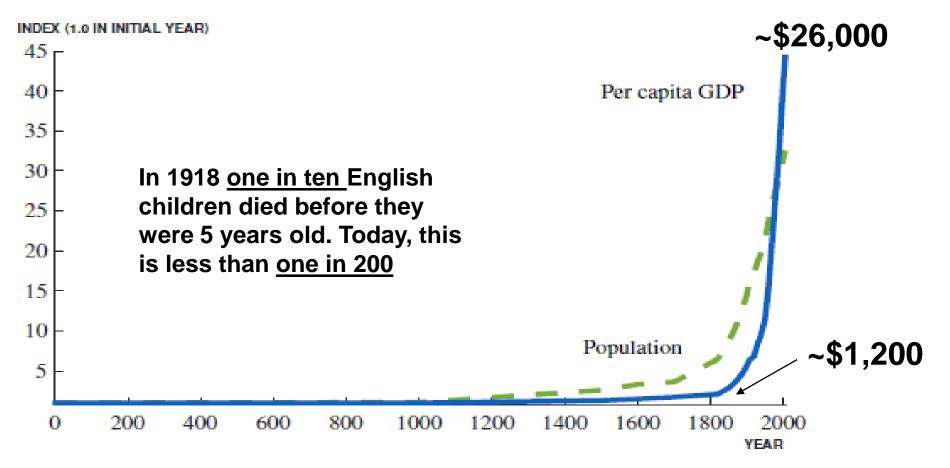
- Size of the economy (GDP) is not important per se for citizen wellbeing
  - Increasing GDP via more people or longer working hours unlikely to be good in itself
  - But increases in GDP per capita do matter
  - Note that GDP highly correlated with alternative measures like Net Domestic Product, Net Domestic Income, etc.

### The "Hockey Stick": Two millennia of Western Growth



Note: Data are from Maddison (2008) for the "West," i.e. Western Europe plus the United States. A similar pattern holds using the "world" numbers from Maddison.

### The "Hockey Stick": Two millennia of Western Growth

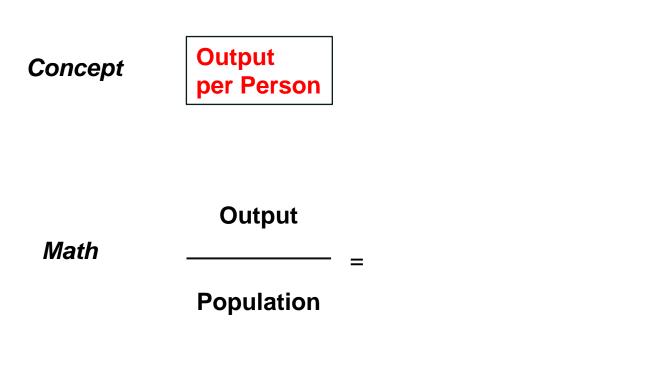


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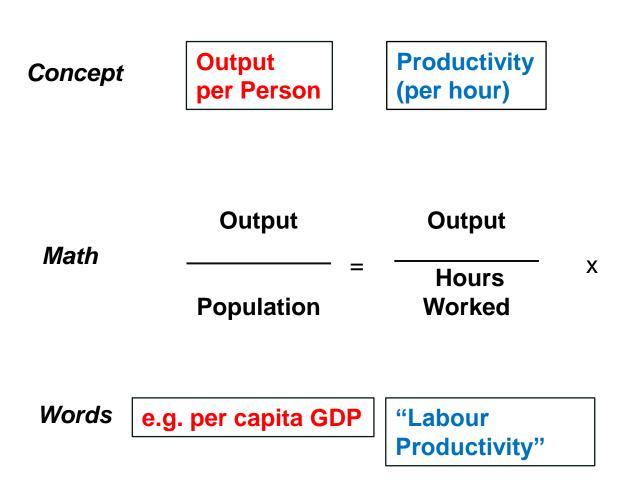
# Why does Growth Matter?

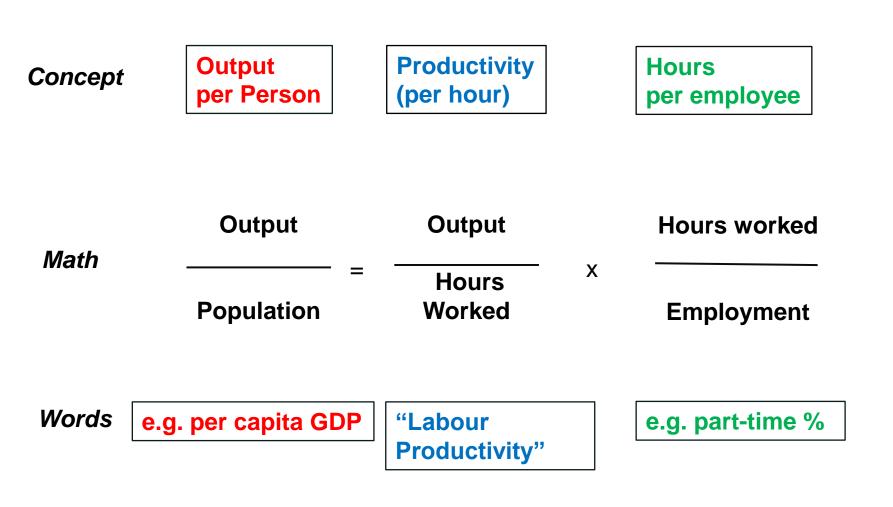
- Productivity growth increases size of economic pie giving us more choices:
  - More public goods (health, education), leisure, consumption, environmental improvements, redistribution,...

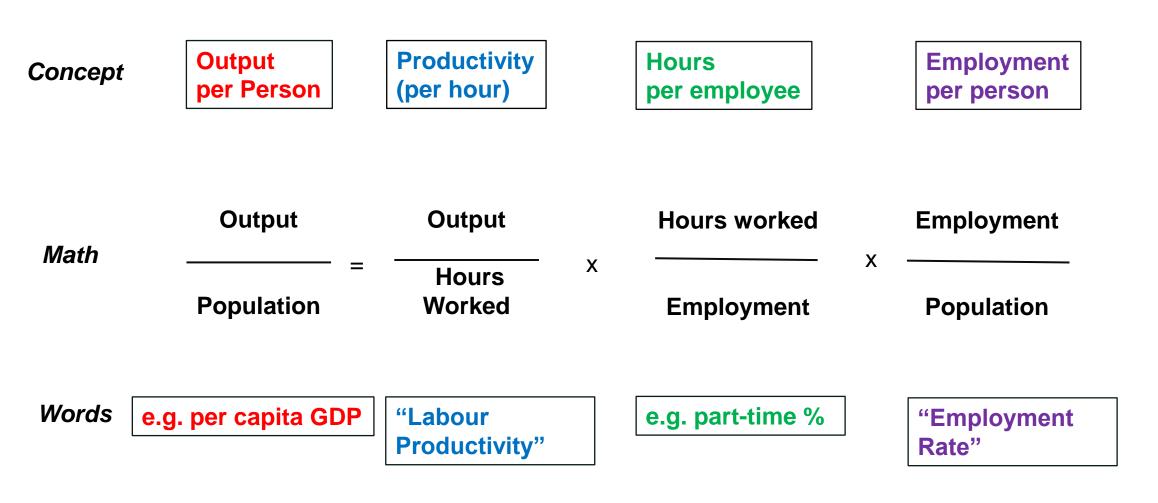
- Can break down GDP per capita into:
  - Labour Productivity: Outputs per input, e.g. GDP per worker or GDP per hour
  - Employment Rate (e.g. lower unemployment)



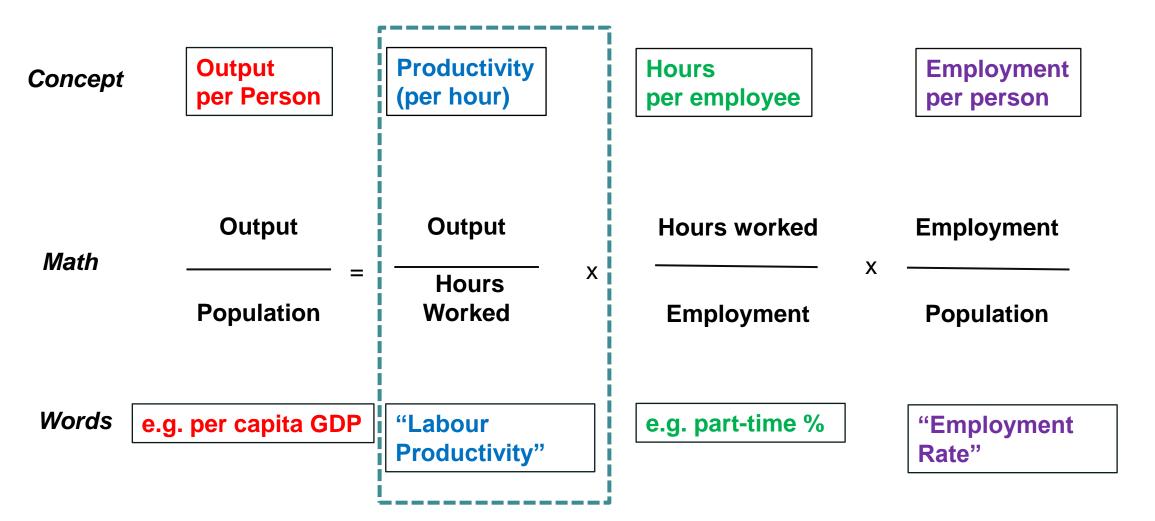
Words e.g. per capita GDP



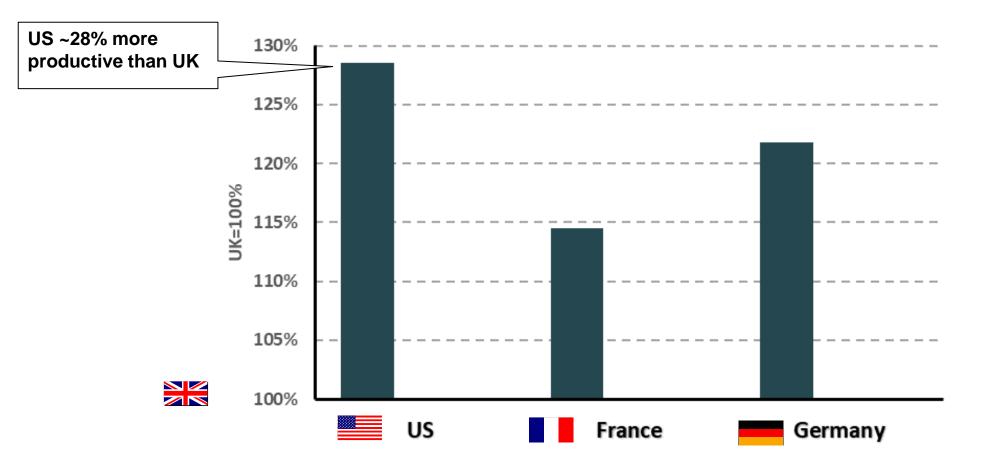




## Relating Output per Person to Productivity Measures (see ONS Productivity Manual for more detail)



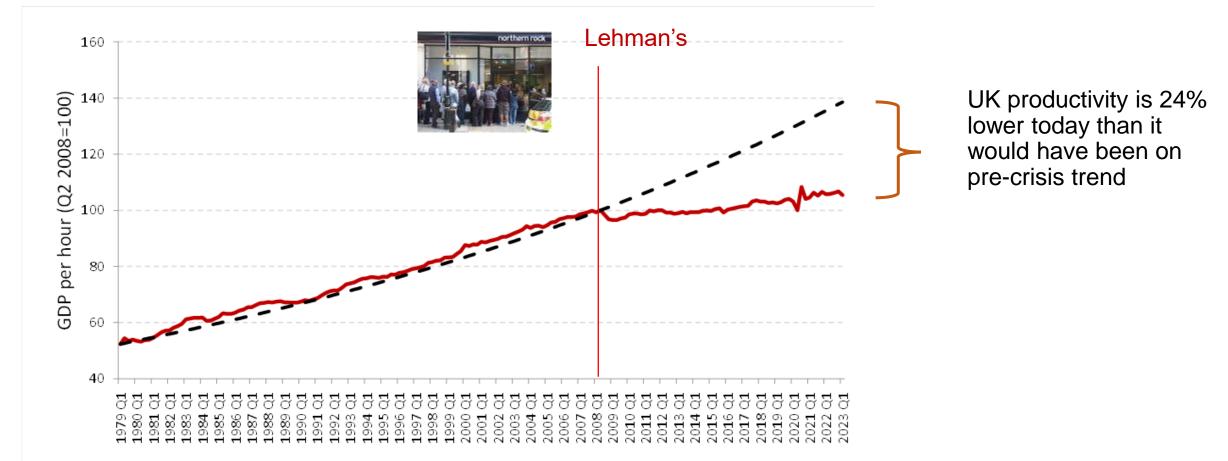
# UK has long had a major deficit in productivity (GDP per hour) in <u>levels</u> compared to other countries



**Note:** 2019 data from "market economy" (i.e. drop public sector). EUKLEMS & INTANProd 2023 release; OECD (2014); PPP from OECD (2023) and other sources. Hours measured in consistent way across countries. **Source:** Van Reenen and Yang (2023)

# UK Labour Productivity since 1979 Big Slowdown since 2008-09 Global Financial Crisis

Whole economy output per hour worked (Q2 2008=100)



**Source:** ONS Output per hour worked, release date 29 September 2023, UK Whole Economy: Output per hour worked SA index (2008 Q2= 100). Note: predicted value after Q2 2008 is the dashed line calculated assuming a historical average growth rate of 2.2% (the 1979Q1-2008Q2 growth rate)

## **OUTLINE OF TALK**

**Productivity Basics** 

**Defending Productivity Growth** 

Explaining Productivity Growth

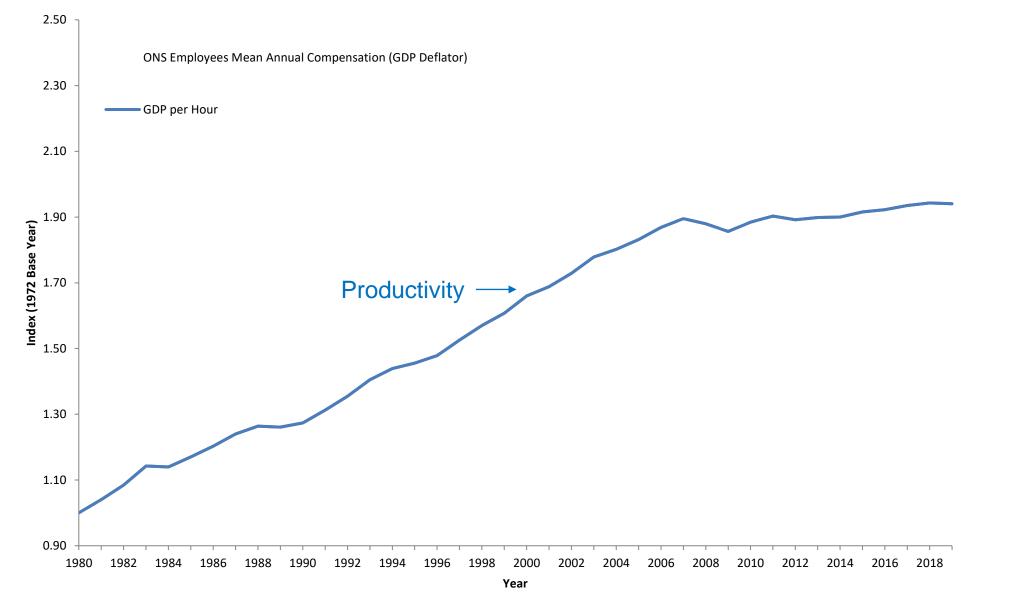
**Productivity Policies** 

# **Defending Productivity Growth**

#### 1. "Capitalists get all the benefits of growth, not workers"

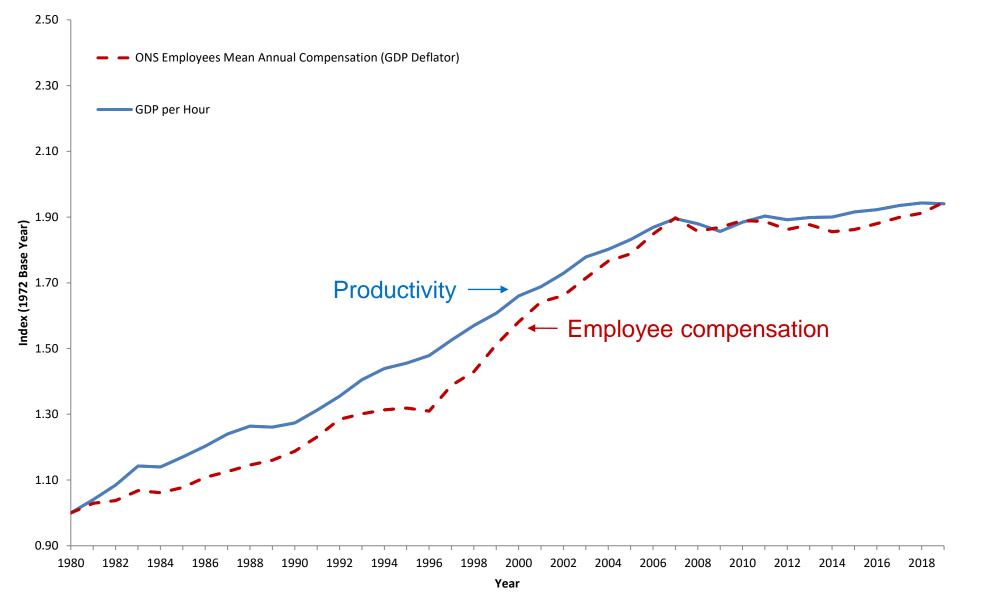
- 2. "Faster growth means more inequality"
- 3. "Growth is bad for the environment"
- 4. "Growth doesn't make us any happier"
- 5. "There's nothing we can do to improve the growth rate"

# **UK Labour Productivity (again)**



**Source:** ONS (2021); Series both based at 1 in 1980, both compensation and productivity approximately doubled over the four decades

# **UK Employee Average Compensation tracks UK Labour Productivity**



**Source:** ONS (2021); Series both based at 1 in 1980, both compensation and productivity approximately doubled over the four decades

# **Defending Productivity Growth**

- 1. "Capitalists get all the benefits of growth, not workers"
- 2. "Faster growth means more inequality"
- 3. "Growth is bad for the environment"
- 4. "Growth doesn't make us any happier"
- 5. "There's nothing we can do to improve the growth rate"
  - Traditional economics vs. modern growth theory
  - UK experience: after a century of relative decline UK GDP per capita caught up with peers in US, Germany and France for 30 years leading up Global Financial Crisis (1979-2008)



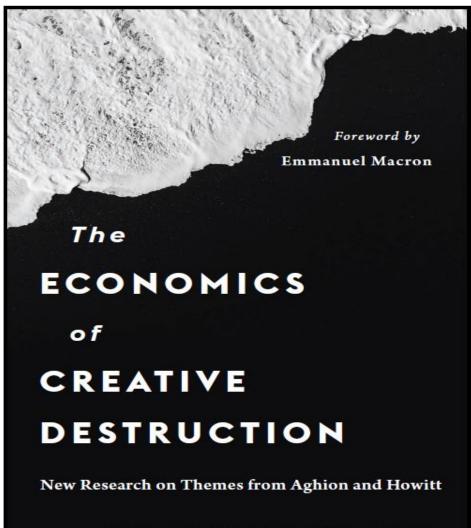
Philippe Aghion



Robert Gordon



### Intellectual Framework: Modern Growth around Creative Destruction



Edited by UFUK AKCIGIT & JOHN VAN REENEN

## **OUTLINE OF TALK**

**Productivity Basics** 

Defending Productivity Growth

**Explaining Productivity Growth** 

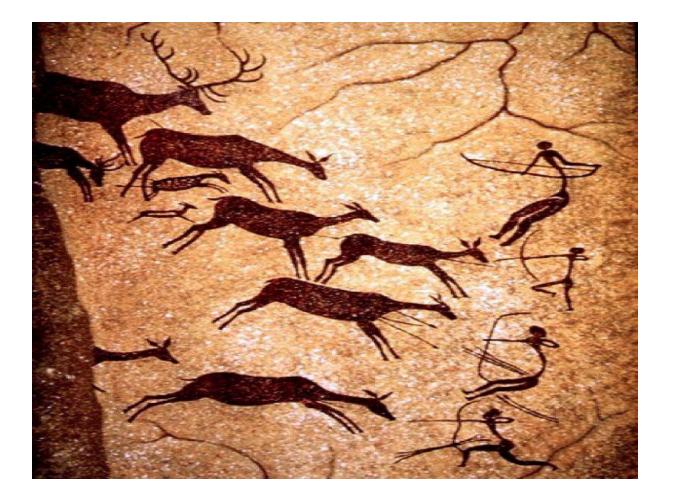
**Productivity Policies** 

# **Decomposition of Productivity growth**

- Output per worker growth
  - + Increase in capital per worker
  - + Increase in skills per worker
  - + Increase in technology
  - + Improvements in management

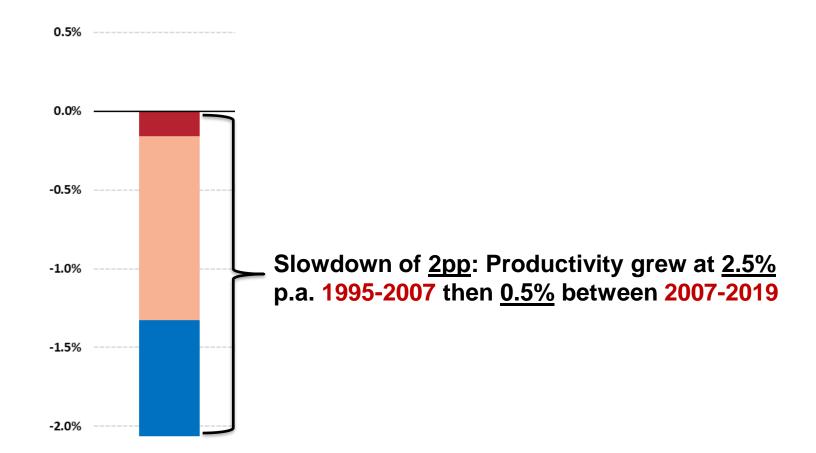
Quantity & Quality of Inputs ("Factors of Production")

# **Explaining Growth: A Hunting Economy**

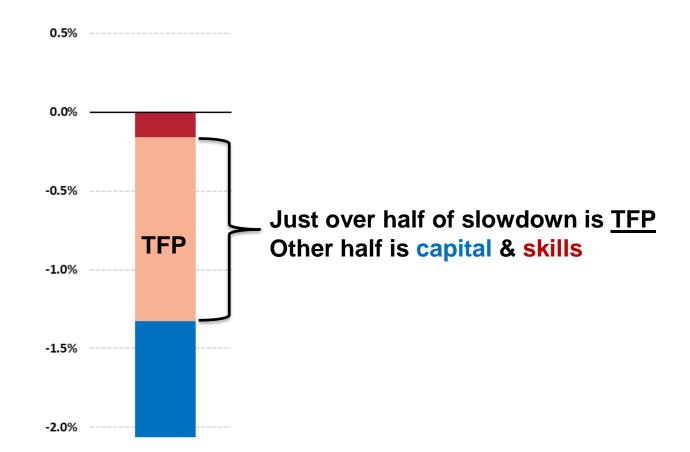


# **Decomposition of Productivity growth in a Hunting Economy**

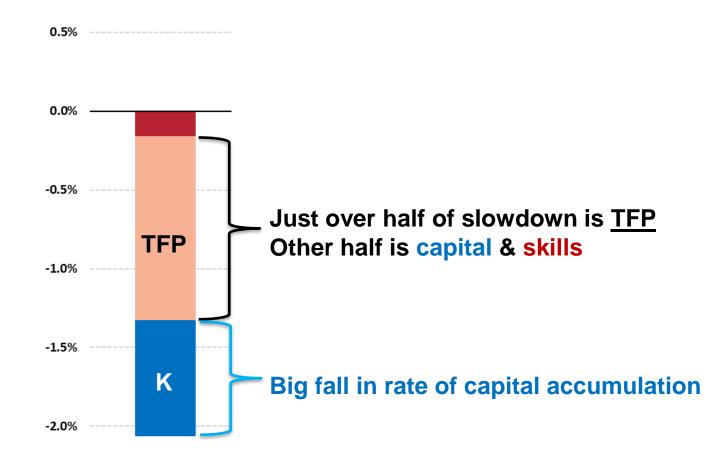
- Growth in food caught per hunter
  - + More arrows per hunter (K)
  - + More years in hunting school (H)
  - + Better arrows = Technology
  - + Hunting in a pack = Management



**Note:** Comparison of market-economy GDP per hour growth 2019-2007 vs. 2007-1995. EUKLEMS & INTANProd 2023 release; OECD (2014) and other sources.

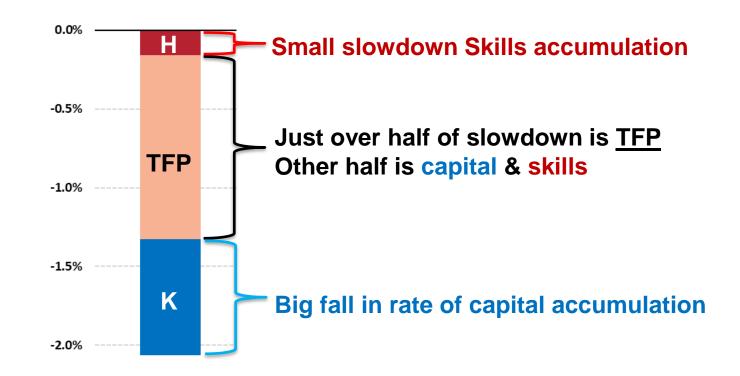


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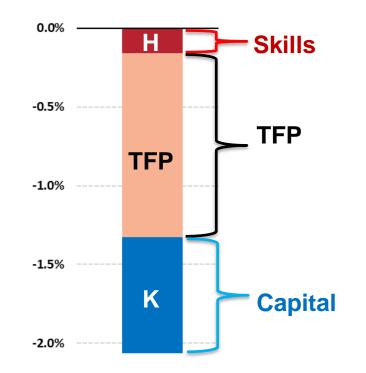
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0.5% -----



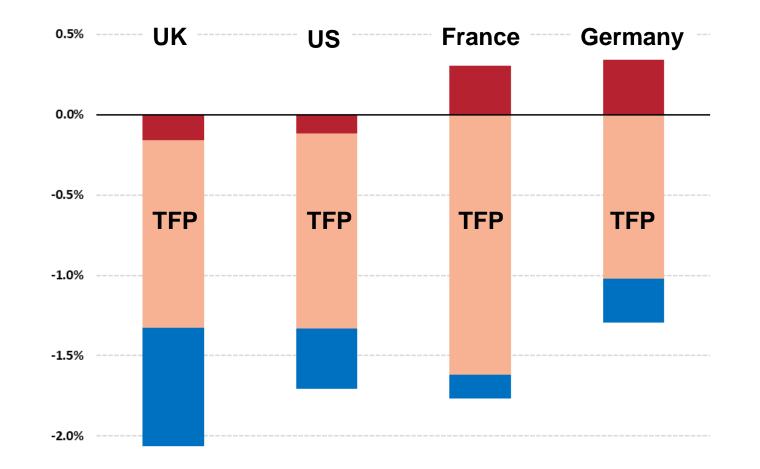
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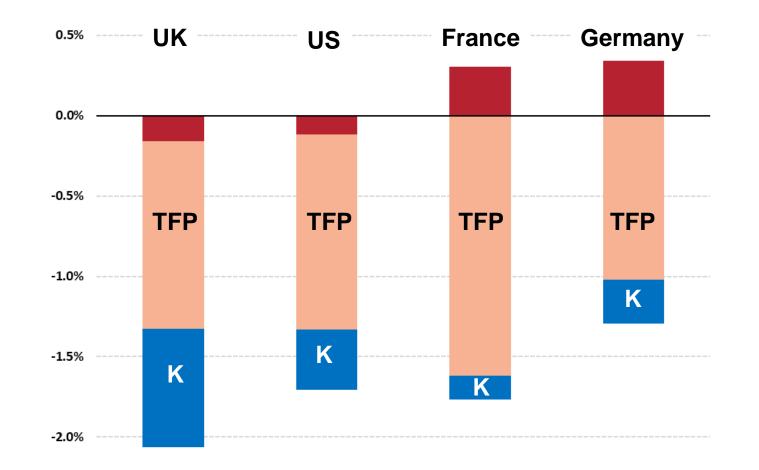
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#### TFP slowdown pretty common across major economies....



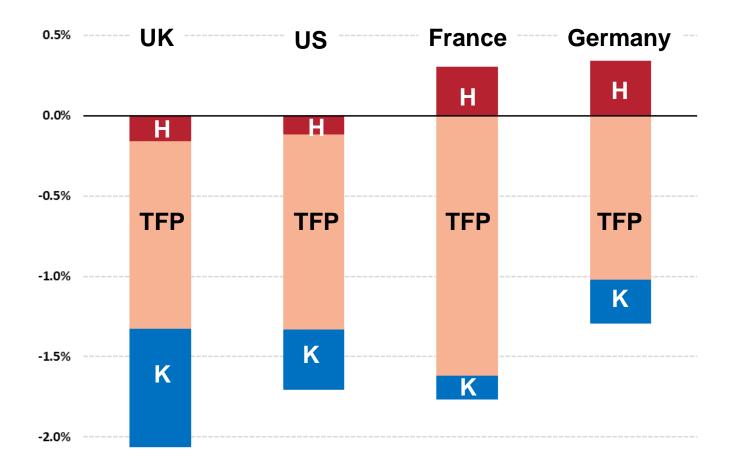
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#### ... But UK investment (K) particularly bad



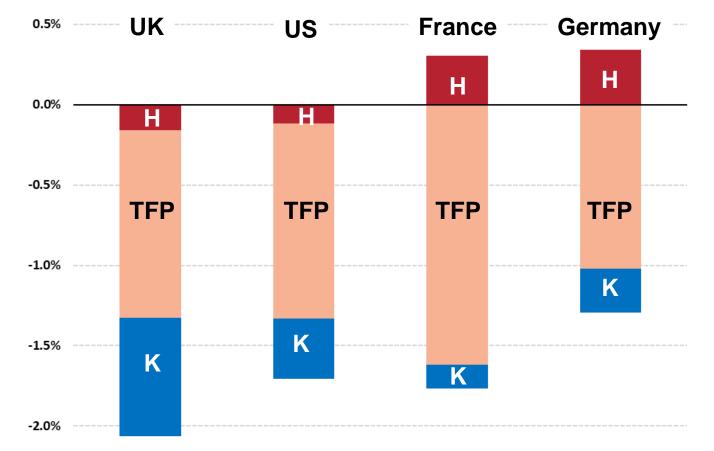
**Note:** Comparison of market-economy GDP per hour growth 2019-2007 vs. 2007-1995. EUKLEMS & INTANProd 2023 release; OECD (2014) and other sources.

# ... And somewhat larger slowdown in human capital accumulation



**Note:** Comparison of market-economy GDP per hour growth 2019-2007 vs. 2007-1995. EUKLEMS & INTANProd 2023 release; OECD (2014) and other sources.

# UK TFP slowdown similar to other countries, but capital (& skills) accumulation much worse



**Note:** Comparison of market-economy GDP per hour growth 2019-2007 vs. 2007-1995. EUKLEMS & INTANProd 2023 release; OECD (2014) and other sources.

# Why has UK productivity been so poor since Financial Crisis?

#### Many factors

- 1. Global problem of slowing productivity growth
- 2. Mismeasurement
- 3. High exposure to financial sector: e.g. SMEs, "Zombie" firms
- 4. Brexit (e.g. uncertainty, higher trade costs)
- 5. Low private and public investment
- 6. Low demand/Premature Austerity

7. .....

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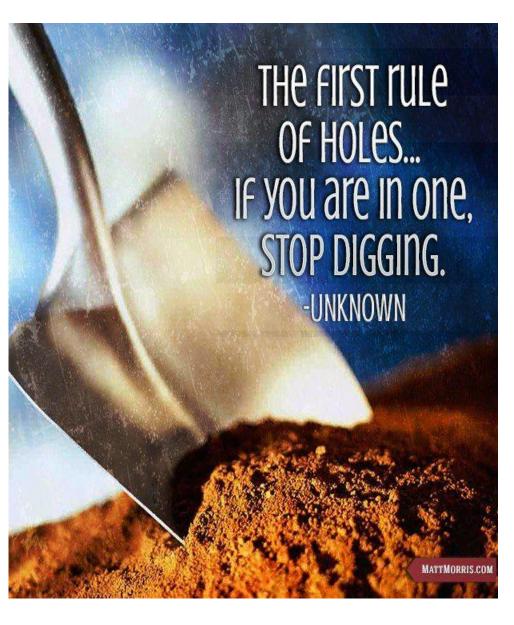
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But regardless of how we got into this mess, the main issue is how we get out of it.

### **Policy Advice**





### **OUTLINE OF TALK**

**Productivity Basics** 

**Defending Productivity Growth** 

**Explaining Productivity Growth** 

**Productivity Policies** 

# The Importance of Policy Evaluation

- We rarely know with precision which policies will work
- Quantitative empirical evidence <u>very valuable</u> for productivity policies
- Major advances in empirical tools for policy evaluation: RCTs, RDDs, quasi-experiments, etc.



# Innovation Policy: The "Lightbulb" Table

| (1)    | (2)        | (3)           | (4)            | (5)         | (6)        |    |
|--------|------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|------------|----|
| Policy | Quality of | Conclusivenes | Benefit - Cost | Time frame: | Effect     | on |
|        | evidence   | s of evidence |                |             | inequality |    |



**Source:** Bloom, Van Reenen and Williams (2019, JEP)

# Innovation Policy: The "Lightbulb" Table

| (2)        | (3)                                      | (4)  | (5)  | (6)   | <b>~</b>  |
|------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| Quality of | Conclusivenes                            | Benefit - Cost   | Time frame:  | Effect  | on  |
| evidence   | s of evidence                            |  |  | inequality  |   |
| Medium     | Medium                                   | ૾ૻૡ૽ૢૻૼૼૼૼૼ૾ૺ૽ૻૡ૽ૢૼૼૻ  | Medium-Run   | 1   | — "Demand"  |
| High       | High                                     | ૻૢ૽ૢૢૼૺૼૼ૽ૻૡ૽ૢૢૼૼૼૼ૾૽ૡ૽ૢૼૼૼૼ   | Short-Run  | 1   |   |
| Medium     | Medium                                   | Negative   | n/a  | 1   | — L   |
|            | Quality of<br>evidence<br>Medium<br>High | Quality of<br>evidenceConclusivenes<br>s of evidenceMediumMediumHighHigh | Quality of<br>evidenceConclusivenesBenefit - Costevidences of evidenceMediumMediumHighHigh | Quality of<br>evidenceConclusivenesBenefit - CostTime frame:s of evidences of evidenceMediumMediumHighHighShort-Run | Quality of<br>evidenceConclusivenesBenefit - CostTime frame:<br>inequalityMediumMediumMedium-Run↑HighHighShort-Run↑ |



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# Innovation Policy: The "Lightbulb" Table

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|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Policy                       | Quality of evidence | Conclusivenes<br>s of evidence | Benefit - Cost            | Time frame:            | Effect of the second se |
| Direct R&D<br>Grants         | Medium              | Medium                         | ૾ૻૡ૽ૢૼૼૼૼૻૡ૽ૢૼૼૼૼ         | Medium-Run             | 1  |
| R&D tax<br>credits           | High                | High                           | ૾ૻૡૢૢૢૢૢૢ૽ૼૼ૾ૻૡૢૢૢૢ૽ૼૼૼૼૼ | Short-Run              | 1  |
| Patent Box                   | Medium              | Medium                         | Negative                  | n/a                    | 1  |
| Skilled<br>Immigration       | High                | High                           | ୖୄଢ଼ୖଽୄୖଢ଼ଽୄୖ             | Short to<br>Medium-Run | $\downarrow$   |
| Universities:<br>incentives  | Medium              | Low                            | <u>`</u> @:               | Medium-Run             | 1  |
| Universities:<br>STEM Supply | Medium              | Medium                         | ૾ૻૡ૽ૢૻૼૼૻ૽ૻૡ૽ૢૻૼૼ         | Long-Run               | $\downarrow$   |
| Exposure<br>Policies         | Medium              | Low                            | ૾ૻૡ૽ૢૻૼૼૻ૽૽ૡ૽ૢૼૼૼ         | Long-run               | $\downarrow$   |
| Trade and competition        | High                | Medium                         | ૾ૻૡૢૻૼૻ૽ૻૡૢૻૼ             | Medium-Run             | 1  |

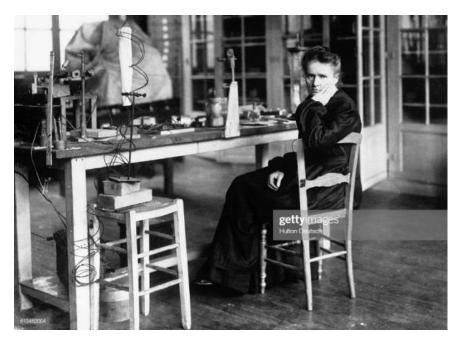
**Source:** Bloom, Van Reenen and Williams (2019, JEP)

#### Kids of rich parents 10x more likely to become inventors than those in **bottom half** Patent rate for top 1% Ω parent income: No. of Inventors per Thousand Children 8.3 per 1,000 ပ 4 $\sim$ Patent rate for bottom 50% parent income: 0.84 per 1,000 0 20 40 60 80 100 0 Parent Household Income Percentile

Source: Bell, Chetty, Jaravel, Petkova & Van Reenen (2019, QJE); USPTO- IRS data

# Finding the "Lost Einsteins and Marie Curies"

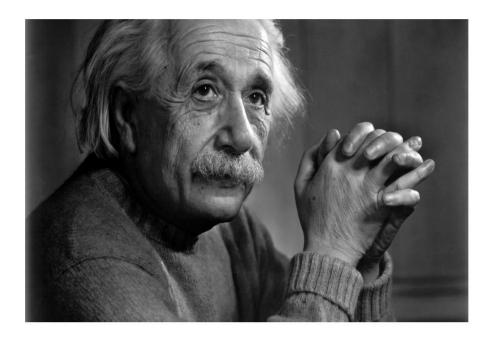
- Major impediment to innovation is that supply of talented potential inventors held back by race, gender, parental income (e.g. schools in disadvantaged areas, low exposure to role models, networks and mentors, etc.)
- Unlocking this hidden talent could quadruple innovation rate
- An example of policies that help growth <u>and</u> equity





Let enapoid Silicon Valley has created a model for identifying and nurturing highpotential young companies. <u>Pioneer, an experimental fund</u>, hopes to d much the same thing for high-potential people.

The group, which is being announced on Thursday, plans to use the internet-era tools of global communication and crowdownring to solicit and help select promising candidates in a variety of fields, along with evaluations by experts. Its goal is to put more science and less happenstance into the process of talent discovery — and reach more







# Getting Back to (Productivity) Growth

# **Government Economic Service**

# <u>Anna Valero</u> and John Van Reenen, Programme on Innovation and Diffusion, LSE October 2023







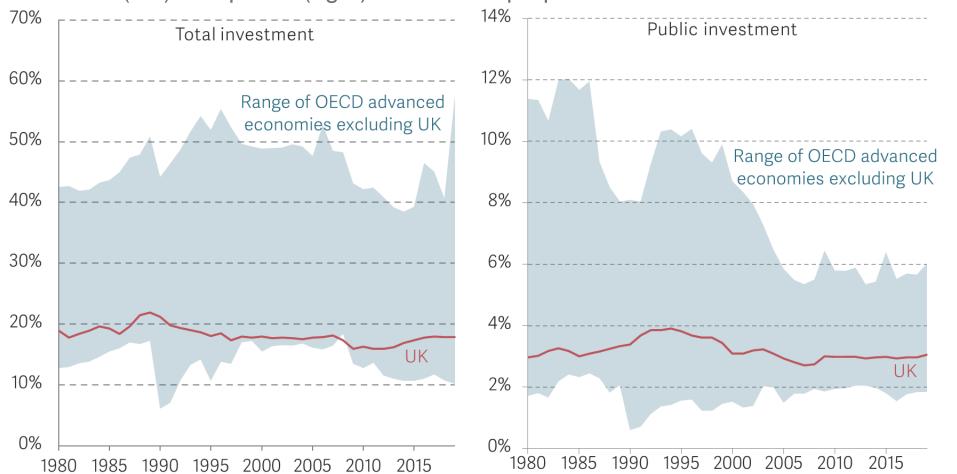


# **PRODUCTIVITY POLICIES, UK PRIORITIES**

- The need for investment
- Policies for productivity
- The key role of institutions and strategy
- Conclusions

# Capital investment has been low as a share of GDP for some time, both public...

Total (left) and public (right) GFCF as a proportion of GDP: selected Advanced Economies

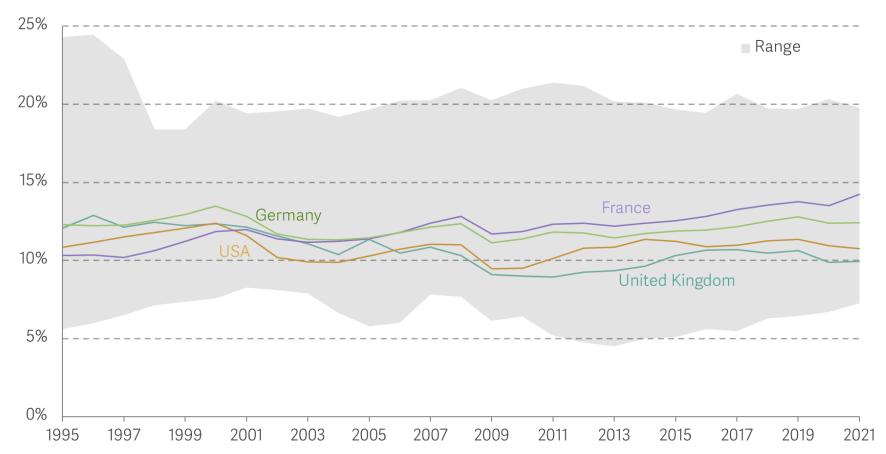


Low

 investment has
 resulted in a
 large fall in the
 growth of
 capital per
 worker

Notes: Swathe includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States. Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) includes fixed assets such as buildings, and also investments in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Research and Development (R&D). Source: Analysis of IMF, Investment and Capital Stock Dataset: 1960-2019. Charts taken from Cutting the Cuts, Economy 2030 Inquiry, March 2023.

### And business investment rates have also been low



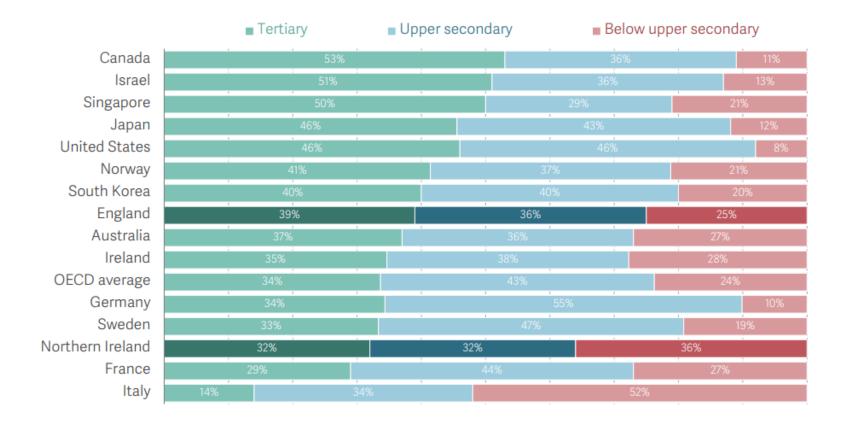
Corporate investment (% GDP)

- Weak investment is not explained by sectoral mix
- UK does relatively better when investment in broader intangibles are taken into account, but outcomes are not best in class

Notes: Gross Fixed Capital Formation in the corporate sector as a share of GDP, ratio of series in current PPP dollars. Source: OECD. Chart taken from Business Investment work for the Economy 2030 Inquiry, report forthcoming.

# There are skills gaps, particularly at mid-level

Highest qualification among working-age population in selected OECD countries: 2019

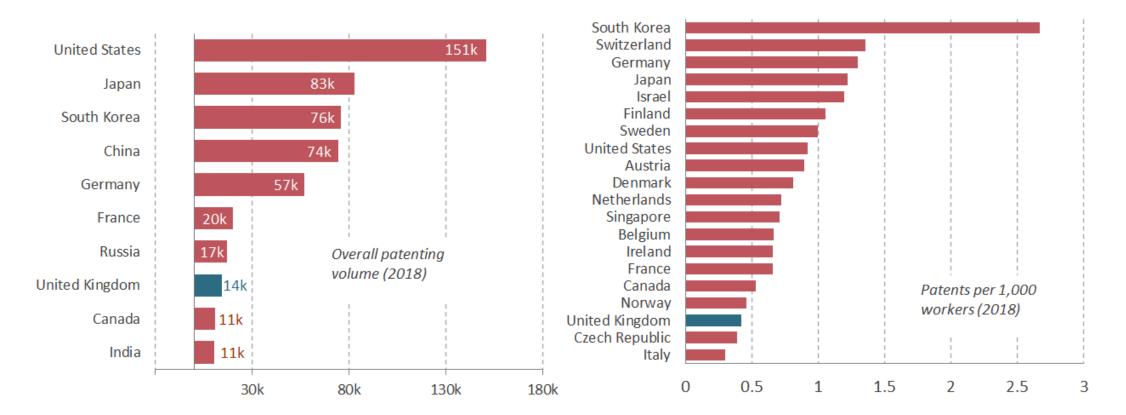


- Work related training has been in decline
- And consistently low for the least skilled

NOTES: The OECD data used to produce this graph are only available for England and Northern Ireland and not the United Kingdom as a whole. In addition, the OECD data do not disaggregate education levels into the four categories used in the previous subsection; instead, vocational qualifications and degrees are combined into tertiary education. SOURCE: Figure 8 in C Farquharson, S McNally & I Tahir, 'Education Inequalities', IFS Deaton Review of Inequalities, August 2022. Chart taken from: Train in Vain, Economy 2030 Inquiry, December 2022.

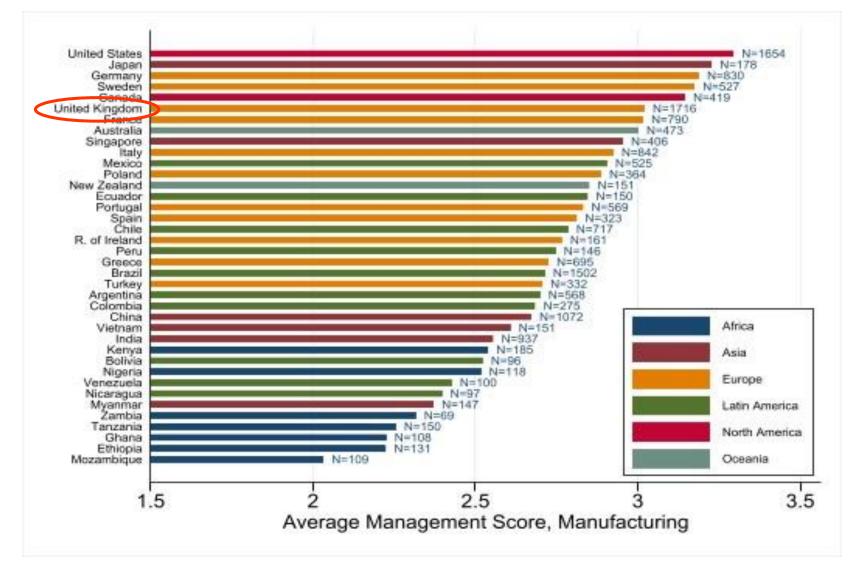
# **Technology: Patent intensity is relatively low**

Total volume of patents and patents per thousand workers, by country: 2018



Notes: Countries with less than 1,000 patent families in 2018 are not included. Source: Analysis of PATSTAT 2021, Fall edition; World Bank, Total Labor Force, World Development Indicators (derived using data from International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT database). Chart taken from: Enduring Strengths, Economy 2030 Inquiry, April 2022.

### Management practices: UK is not in Premier League



Note: Unweighted average management scores; # interviews in right column (total = 17,783); all waves pooled (2004-2022). Source: Scur et al (2023)

## Investment is needed for net zero

£30bn 2022 2030 ■2035 £25bn £20bn £15bn £10bn £5bn £0 Surface transport Fuel supply Residential Non residential Electricity supply Manufacturing Other and construction buildings buildings

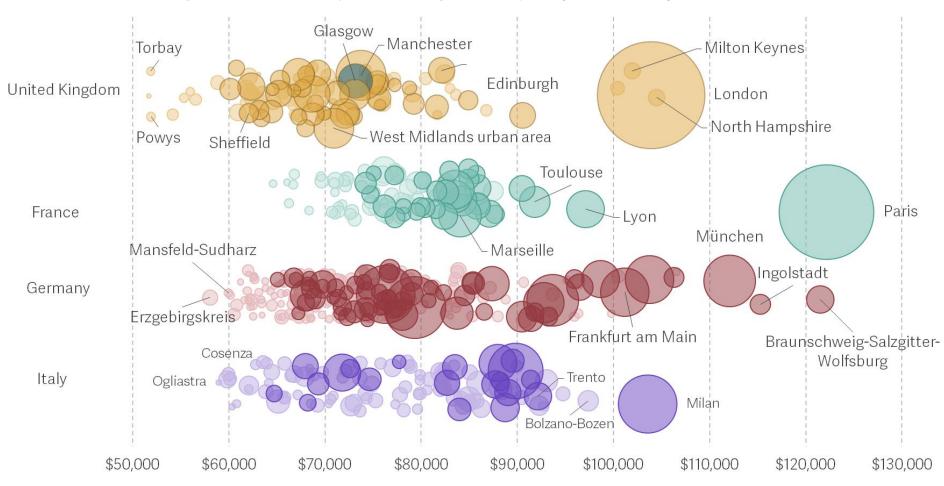
Notes: Other = Agriculture, aviation, shipping, waste, F-gases, LULUCF & removals. Source: CCC, 2020. Chart taken from: <u>Growing Clean</u>, Economy 2030 Inquiry, May 2022.

Annual additional capital investment for net zero

- Opportunities for productivity growth via resource efficiency, energy security, and for firms offering new products and services to serve growing demand
- But some firms and sectors will face a harder transition

# Investment is needed to level up our second-tier cities

GVA per worker (PPP adjusted), by country and area: 2018

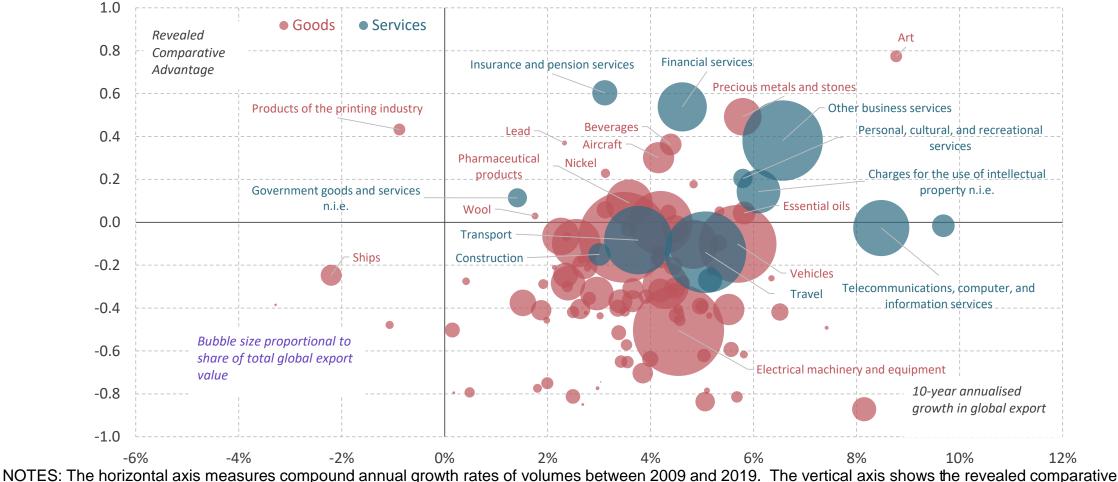


To halve the gap between Manchester and London likely to require many tens of billions of pounds of investment, 1ppt increase in graduate share, and c.500,000 workers

Notes: 2018 levels of GVA per worker across areas for our set of comparator countries (adjusted to allow for comparability across different currencies). Metro areas are shown in darker bubbles. Foreign and extra-regio territories have been dropped. Bubbles proportional to number of workers in each area. Source: Analysis of OECD Regional Economy Database. Chart taken from: Bridging the Gap, Economy 2030 Inquiry, June 2022.

# The UK has many "enduring strengths" to be built on

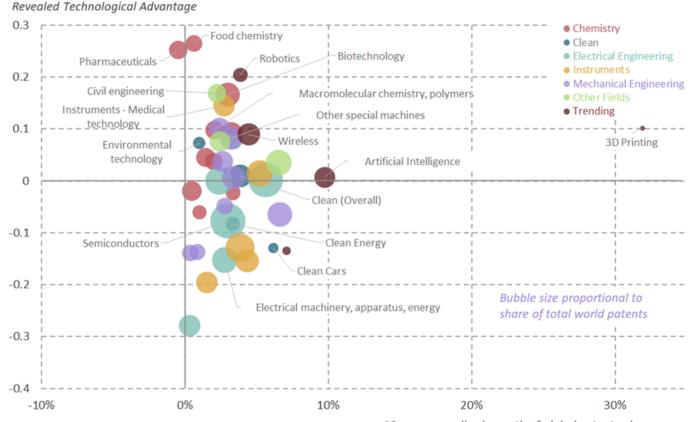
Revealed comparative advantage and 10-year annualised growth in global export value, by product category: UK, 2019



NOTES: The horizontal axis measures compound annual growth rates of volumes between 2009 and 2019. The vertical axis shows the revealed comparative advantage in 2019. The size of the bubbles corresponds to each product's share in world trade in 2019. SOURCE: Analysis of Harvard Growth Lab, Atlas of Economic Complexity (HS version) and OECD-WTO, Balanced Trade in Services.

# Patents analysis can help identify future growth opportunities

UK RTA and 10-year annualised growth in global patenting, by broad technology



<sup>10-</sup>year annualised growth of global patent volumes

UK has revealed technological advantage (RTA) in clean technologies and other growing areas

 Within clean tech, UK specialized in tidal stream, offshore wind, CCUS, nuclear

Notes: The vertical axis denotes the RTA bounded between -1 and 1, the horizontal axis represents the 10-year annualised growth for broad technological categories (2008-2018), and the size of the bubbles represents the share of the technological category in overall patenting activity between 2015-2018. Clean (overall) includes all patents under the CPC class 'Y02' i.e., climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies. These also include patents under the other technology categories such as clean cars, environmental technology and clean energy. Source: Analysis of PATSTAT 2021, Autumn edition. Chart taken from: Growing Clean, Economy 2030 Inquiry, May 2022.

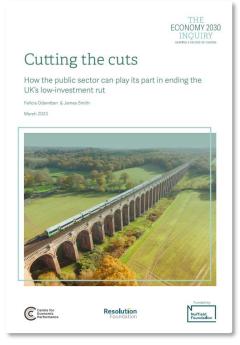
- The need for investment
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# **Reforming the UK's investment ecosystem**

- Business investment is determined by
  - The profitable projects that businesses want to undertake
  - The supply of finance, skilled labour, land and other factors needed to realise the projects
- The UK has many sources of strength
- But various constraints are holding investment back, and a range of mutually-enforcing policies can address these

# **Public sector investment**

- Public sector investment matters for growth
  - Tangible assets: e.g. roads, hospitals and schools
  - Intangible assets & innovation: e.g. government investment in R&D
- UK public sector investment is low and volatile (cut when times get tight)
- Policy options:
  - Changes to fiscal framework: treat investment spending differently from current spending, net worth target?
  - Commitments to a level of investment over parliamentary terms



# **Business investment**

- Raising firms' willingness to invest for long-term growth
  - Pressure from above: empowered owners
  - Pressure from below: empowered workers
  - Corporate tax: permanent full expensing, broader, stability
- Improving firms' ability to invest
  - Planning
  - SME support



# **Ownership of British firms is unusually dispersed**

by country: 2012 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Austria Japan Mexico Belgium Sweden Finland Czech Republic Turkey Italy Portugal France Poland uxembourg celand Spain Netherlands Norway Korea Ireland Estonia ithuania-Germany Slovenia srae Denmark Canada **United States** Slovakia Switzerland New Zealand Australia Jnited Kingdom

Notes: Controlled firms identified using a Shapely-Shubik algorithm to identify owners that have enough votes to change a vote decision. The algorithm has been adjusted to allow for owners in the same corporation to act in unison. A firm is classified as controlled if its Shapley-Shubik power index is 75 per cent or greater. Source: G Aminadav & E Papaioannou, Corporate control around the world, The Journal of Finance 2020.

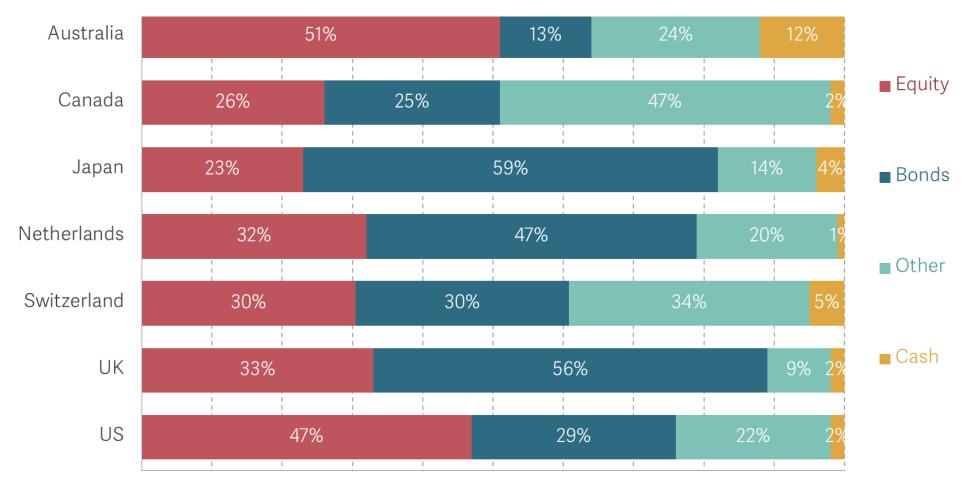
Proportion of listed companies that have a controlling shareholder, Dispersed ownership is less engaged, lack of

#### pressure from above

- Driven by exit of local institutional investors
- Pensions as a route to more engaged "blockholders" as in the past

# The UK pension system is under exposed to equity and productive assets

Total pension asset allocation, by country: 2022



Notes: Chosen countries represent the so-called P7 economies with the largest pension assets. Source: Thinking Ahead Institute, Global Pensions Asset Study 2023.

# Pensions reforms can deliver engaged ownership and investment into productive assets

- Defined Benefit (70% assets, majority in surplus): offer alternatives to insurance buyout for exiting funds that enable investment
- Defined Contribution (smaller but growing, fragmented): turbocharge consolidation
- Local Government Pension Schemes (spread across local pension boards): pool £300bn of assets
  - These reforms will help drive scale in the active pension market
  - At least as good outcomes for savers, and significantly better outcomes for the UK economy as a whole

## **Corporate governance**

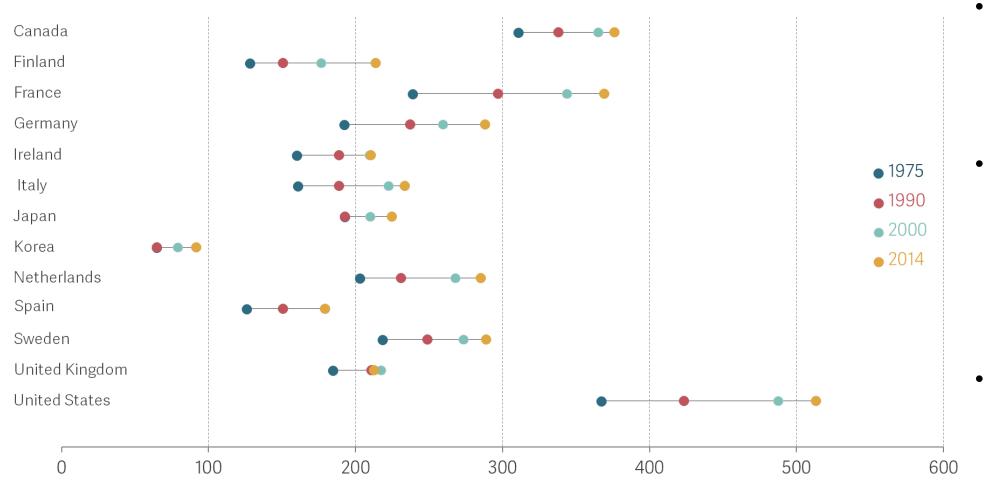
- The UK stands out amongst European countries for having no mandatory requirement for worker representation on corporate boards (less pressure from below)
- Evidence suggests this is good for investment, and does not lead to large pay hikes
  - Mechanism: repeated interactions between workers and managers facilitate cooperation, build trust, and improve decision-making for the longer term
- We propose mandatory representation (20%) in larger companies

# **Fiscal levers matter**

- Without temporary full expensing for plant and machinery, the UK tax system has less generous incentives for investment vs OECD
- Build on Spring Budget 3-year full expensing of plant and machinery
  - Make permanent (lasting impact on investment)
  - Broaden to other assets (remove distortions that favour certain assets)
  - Help finance by limiting interest deductibility (removes debt bias)
- Consider further support for net zero investment and R&D, and skills via tax credits
  - Strong evidence on effectiveness of R&D tax credits on SMEs (Bloom et al., 2019)
  - Lessons from IRA?

# Restrictiveness in planning is reflected in a lack of growth in built up land per capita

Sq m of built-up land per capita: selected OECD countries, 1975 to 2014



Ex-post system, and lack of fiscal incentives for development in local areas

- Prevents investment in business structures and expansion of high growth areas
- Planning restrictions also hold back infrastructure

Source: Analysis of OECD, Built-up area and built-up area change in countries and regions.

# Planning reforms are needed to boost investment in business structures and allow productive areas to grow

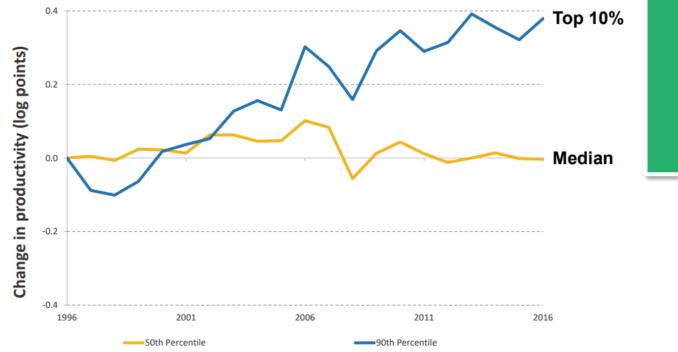
- Every area should have a plan, and this should lead the decision process
- Plan and decision making relating to commercial and business developments at the right level – reflecting functional economic areas
- Local authorities should have meaningful financial incentives for development, both commercial and residential
  - Accompanied by improved national coordination of land-use objectives, and removal of specific barriers for net zero

# Building on existing SME programmes, reflecting the different barriers to investment faced

- Allowing high growth firms to scale
  - Improve scale and permanence of British Business Bank (borrow on markets with government guarantee) and offer a co-investment fund allowing pension funds to benefit from its expertise
- Promoting the diffusion of digital technologies and management practices across broader set of SMEs
  - Build on £500m Help to Grow framework, expanding experimentation and evaluation within the continuity of the broad programme

# **Business dynamism and reallocation**

Ln(value added per employee), quantiles weighted by firm employment



Notes: Historical ORBIS, In(value added/employee), quantiles weighted by firm employment; values indexed to zero in 1996; Changes in log points, so 0.05 = about 5% growth; 0.4 = (e0.04 - 1)\*100 = 50%. Chart taken from: <u>De Loecker, Obermeier and Van Reenen</u> (2022), Firms and Inequalities, IFS Deaton Review.



- Rise of "superstar firms", declining dynamism – technology a key driver
- Many ways to improve competition (e.g. removing planning barriers, trade policy, improving incentives for smaller firms to grow)
- Competition policy also important

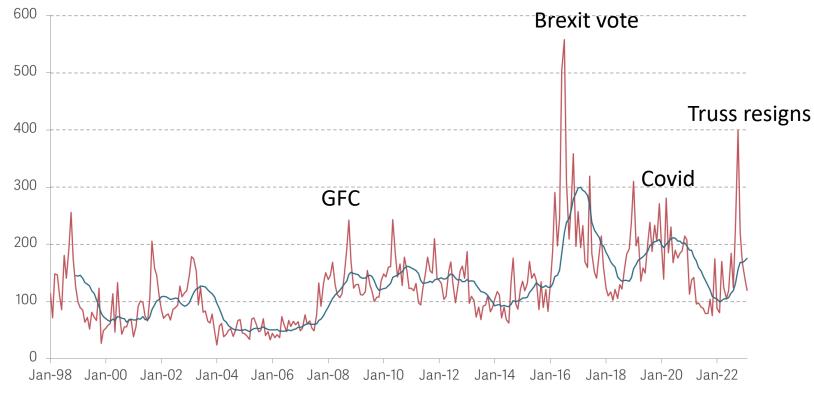
# **Human capital**

- Human capital matters for growth
  - Direct impacts on worker/manager own productivity
  - Indirect impacts through technical change and externalities
- Need to improve outcomes for those that do not go to university, and address the misallocation of talent (Lost Einsteins, female talent, diversity)
- Ongoing skills gaps and reskilling needs due to digitisation and net zero imply training existing workforce is important
  - Human capital tax credits can improve incentives for firms to invest in people

- The need for investment
- Policies for productivity
- The key role of institutions and strategy
- Conclusions

# Uncertainty chills investment, and we have had a lot of it

Index of economic policy uncertainty, monthly and 12-month moving average: UK, 1998-2023



Baker, Bloom • & Davis (2016): policy uncertainty shocks associated with reduced investment (firm level and macro analysis in US)

Source: Analysis of 'Measuring Economic Policy Uncertainty' by Scott Baker, Nicholas Bloom and Steven J. Davis at www.PolicyUncertainty.com.

# Growth and business policies have been subject to a particularly high degree of churn, institutional reform could help



Also: Innovation Strategy, Science Superpower, Levelling Up White Paper, Net Zero Strategy



- Recent churn at the strategy and plan level
- Also features at a more "micro" business policy level
- Role for a new growth and productivity institution?

# National – local, the importance of place

- National strategic frameworks for investment must be combined with effective place-based approaches
- The UK is highly centralised, more decision-making at the local level is likely to be needed to facilitate regional growth
- What do the UK's strengths and needs imply for local growth strategies?
  - High value services specialism (agglomeration) big cities
  - High tech clusters, as well as net zero Golden Triangle important but specialisation and opportunity is spread more widely across the UK



- The need for investment
- Policies for productivity
- The key role of institutions and strategy
- Conclusions

# A strategic approach for improving UK investment and productivity

- No magic bullet, or short-term fix coordinated, long-term approach is required
- Modern industrial strategy should target current potential strengths in areas that are large or expected to grow, or areas where (energy) security considerations are at play
- Institutional change likely to be needed in order to make progress

*"Productivity isn't everything, but in the long run it is almost everything.* 

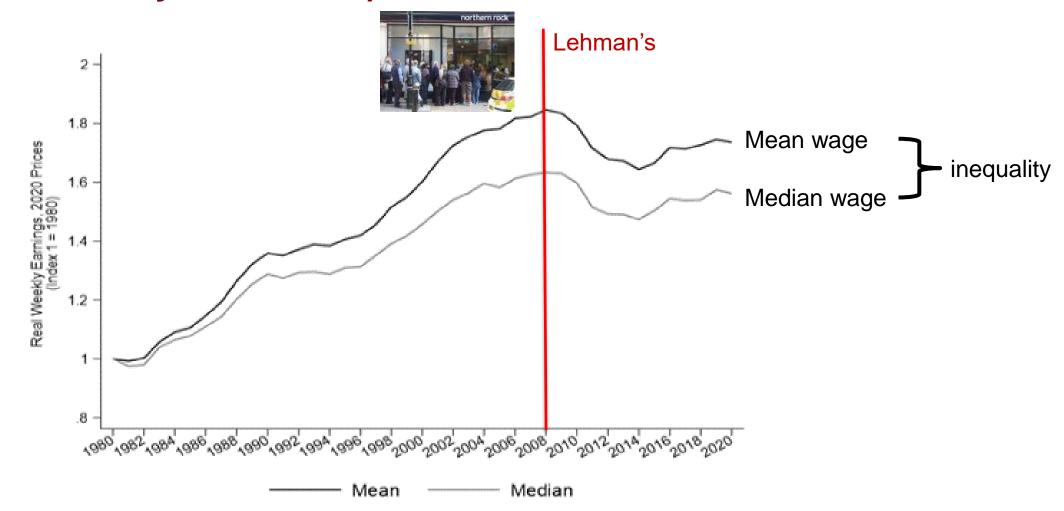
A country's ability to improve its standard of living over time depends almost entirely on its ability to raise output per worker"

- Nobel Laureate, Paul Krugman



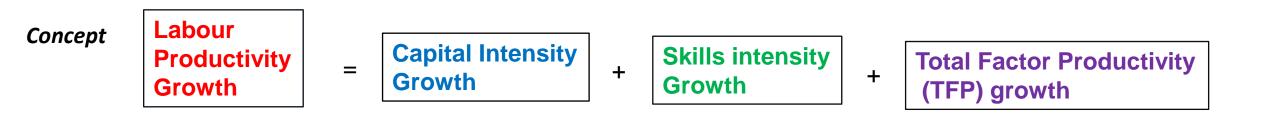
### Back Up

#### Mean and median pay growth since 2008-9 Global Financial Crisis (follows productivity slowdown)

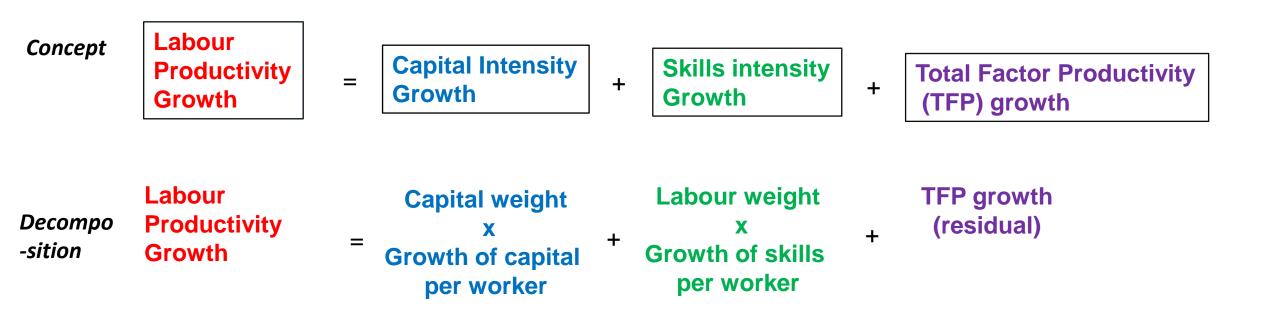


**Notes:** UK mean and median weekly earnings deflated by CPI. **Source:** Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

#### **Growth Accounting**



#### **Growth Accounting**



#### **UK Productivity Growth Decomposition**

| Time period                      | 1995-2007  |
|----------------------------------|------------|
|                                  |            |
| Labour<br>Productivity<br>Growth | 2.54       |
| Contribution of:                 |            |
| Capital growth                   | 0.93 (37%) |
| Skills growth                    | 0.39 (15%) |
| TFP growth                       | 1.22 (48%) |

**Note:** Comparison of market-economy GDP per hour growth 2019-2007 vs. 2007-1995. EUKLEMS & INTANProd 2023 release; OECD (2014) and other sources.

Source: Van Reenen and Yang (2023)

#### **UK Productivity Growth Decomposition**

| Time period                      | <mark>1995-2007</mark> | <mark>2007-2019</mark> | Fall |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------|
| Labour<br>Productivity<br>Growth | 2.54                   | 0.48                   | 2.06 |
| Contribution of:                 |                        |                        |      |
| Capital growth                   | 0.93 (37%)             | 0.20                   | 0.73 |
| Skills growth                    | 0.39 (15%)             | 0.23                   | 0.16 |
| TFP growth                       | 1.22 (48%)             | 0.06                   | 1.16 |

**Note:** Comparison of market-economy GDP per hour growth 2019-2007 vs. 2007-1995. EUKLEMS & INTANProd 2023 release; OECD (2014) and other sources.

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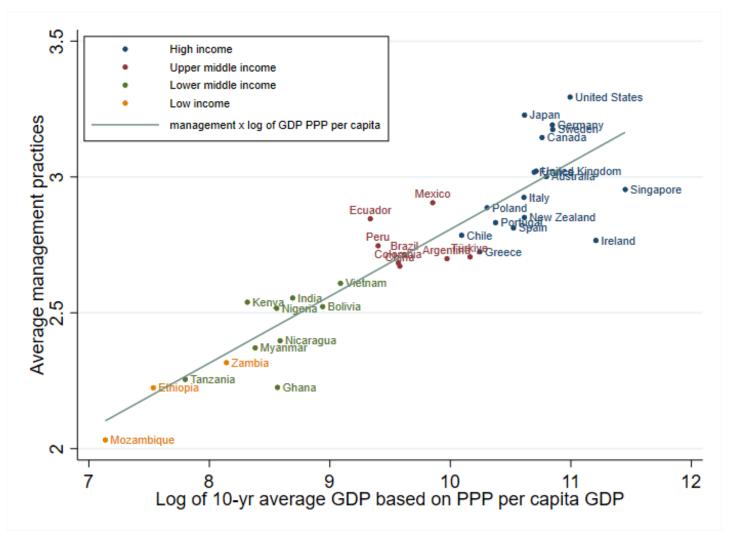
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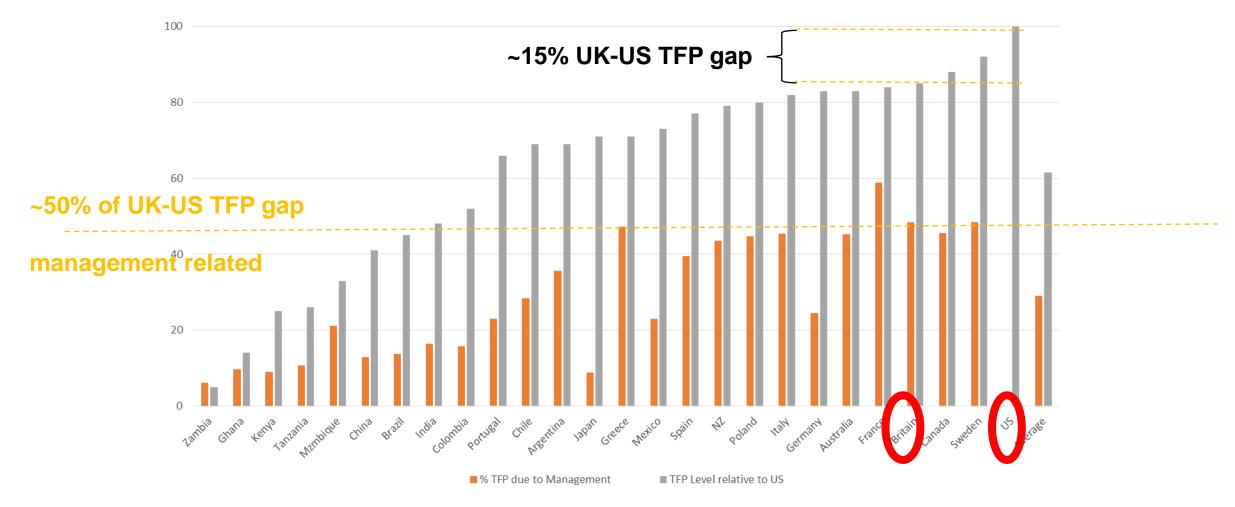
Source: Van Reenen and Yang (2023)

## Management strongly correlated with GDP per capita (accounts for ~30% TFP differences cross countries



Source: Scur et al (2023)

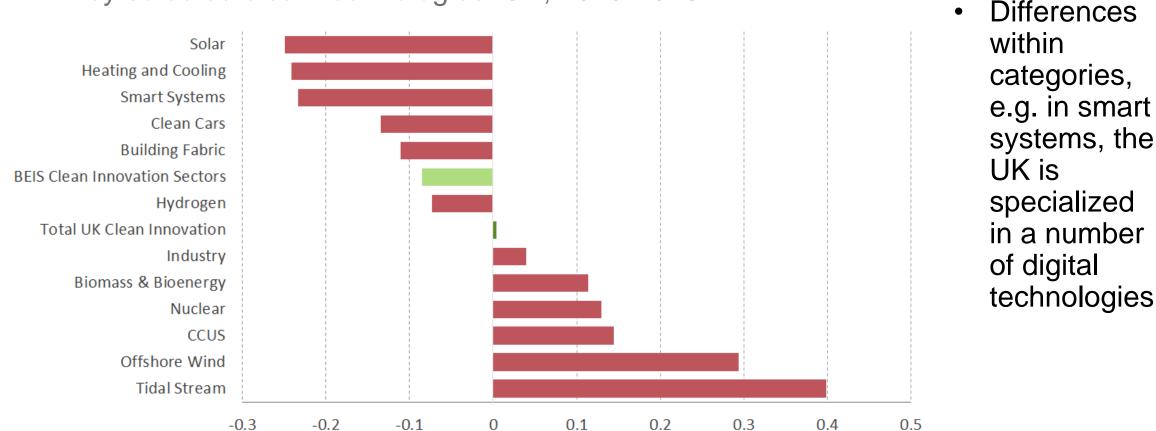
## Poor Management accounts for just under half of UK productivity gap with US<sup>120</sup>



Source: Bloom, Sadun, Schuh & Van Reenen (2023) "Management as a Technology"

**Notes:** Productivity = TFP from Penn World Tables;

#### The UK is particularly specialised in some clean techs



RTA by selected clean technologies: UK, 2015-2018

Notes: Revealed Technological Advantage for the categories in R Martin & D Verhoeven, Knowledge spillovers from clean and emerging technologies in the UK, CEP Discussion paper 1834, March 2022. Category 'clean cars' added. Total UK Clean Innovation refers to all patent families under the CPC class 'Y02' Source: Analysis of PATSTAT 2021, Autumn edition. Chart taken from: <u>Growing Clean</u>, Economy 2030 Inquiry, May 2022.