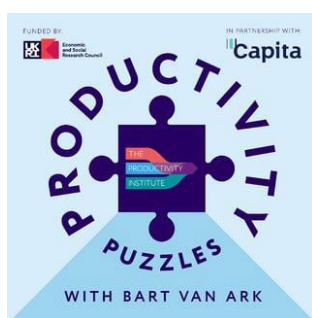




Wednesday, 13 April 2022



New podcast: Staying productive in uncertain times

How do we respond to uncertainties that crises create? How do we balance risks and opportunities? In our [latest podcast episode](#), Bart van Ark looks at productivity in uncertain times with Jagjit Chadha, Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research; Rain Newton-Smith, Chief Economist at the Confederation of British Industry, and Paul Mizen, Professor of Monetary Economics at the University of Nottingham. We have now surpassed 7,000 downloads on the podcast. Thank you for listening!



New working paper: Macroeconomic trends & policy

In [The UK Productivity "Puzzle" in an International Comparative Perspective](#), [John Fernald](#) from INSEAD and [Robert Inklaar](#) of the University of Groningen examine the UK's productivity slowdown in a global context. They find that the bulk of total factor productivity slowdown does not stem from UK-specific factors, but is mostly a response to a slowdown at the US frontier. Thus, solving the UK's productivity puzzle could mean focusing on international solutions.



**Economic
and Social
Research Council**

TPI partners secure ESRC funding on productivity research

The Economic and Social Research Council has awarded seven more projects in its Strategic Priorities Fund on productivity, including one to our partner at the University of Warwick on Mental health and well-being practices,

outcomes and productivity. Nigel Driffield, TPI co-investigator in our Organisational Capital theme, will also be working on an Aston University project on how servitisation can impact UK economic productivity and environmental performance. Find out more about all the awards on the [ESRC website](#).



Read Bart's comments in the Times

Our Managing Director, Bart van Ark, told [the Times](#) that productivity has returned to its pre-pandemic trend of slow growth:

- “Output is just back at where it was before the pandemic but inputs are still well below what they were before the pandemic. We produce the same amount of output as we did pre-pandemic but we do it with fewer workers.”
- “It’s not that the workers who left the labour market were unproductive, but we were not using technology as well.”



Survey into Northern Ireland business practices

The survey into management practices in Northern Ireland-based businesses is underway as part of our Business Innovation research funding programme. The survey, which is being run by our partner Queen's University Belfast and the Northern Ireland Productivity Forum, has been reported on by the [Irish News](#). If your business operates in Northern Ireland and has at least five employees, please [complete this survey](#) to help inform how policy can boost business productivity in the region.



Exploring Northern Ireland's Productivity Challenge

This week's [blog from the Nevin Economic Research Institute](#) features David Jordan discussing the Northern Ireland green paper, co-written with John Turner for The Productivity Institute. He talks about NI's persistent productivity gap to the rest of the UK and possible steps to rectify it.



Bennett Institute for Public Policy annual conference

Our Managing Director, Bart van Ark is speaking at this free one-day hybrid conference on 22 April in the session on *What does productivity matter and how can it be improved?* The conference also features Sir Patrick Vallance and Andy Haldane. Book on the [Bennett Institute website](#).

ESCoE Conference on Economic Measurement

Michael Pollitt, Chiara Criscuolo, Adrian Pabst, Diane Coyle, Tony Venables, Paul Mizen and Bart van Ark are some of The Productivity Institute members who will be speaking at the ESCoE conference on Economic Measurement on 25-27 May 2022, held at Strathclyde University in conjunction with the Office for National Statistics. Book to attend on [the ESCoE website](#), where you can also [download a conference programme](#).



TPI expertise

- Listen to TPI member [Stephen Roper](#), Director at the Enterprise Research Council, talking to guests about SMEs and the 'Triple Transition' of Net-Zero, digital and productivity upgrading on [the latest episode](#) of the [ERC's Exploring Enterprise](#) podcast.
- The [Spring 2022 edition](#) of the Alliance Manchester Business School magazine includes contributions from a number of TPI members, including Kieron Flanagan, Anthony Rafferty and Ken McPhail.
- Listen to Professor Sir Cary Cooper being interviewed about his latest book, *The Healthy Workforce: Enhancing Wellbeing and Productivity in the Workers of the Future*, co-written with Stephen Bevan, Head of HR Research Development at the Institute for Employment Studies. The [Expert Interview from MindTools](#) can be heard and read [here](#).

Regenerating the UK Regions

The Productivity Institute's partner organisation the [National Institute of Economic and Social Research](#) talks



National Institute
of Economic and
Social Research

about levelling up left-behind areas. Authors Adrian Pabst and Arnab Bhattacharjee explain New Economic Geography research and its insights into regional disparities. Read it [here](#).

Levelling Up insights in *On Productivity* report



Nine academics affiliated with The Productivity Institute have contributed to a collection of essays on productivity. Topics covered include gadgets, gender, net-zero, public procurement, research and development, governance and skills. You can read a digital version of *On Productivity* on the [Policy@Manchester website](#).

Research job opportunities

Partners of The Productivity Institute are offering the following research job opportunities.

- **PhD scholarship** in the economics of productivity at the Adam Smith Business School. Closes 15 April. More information and how to apply on the [University of Glasgow website](#).
- **PhD scholarship** into all aspects of the productivity performance of firms, sectors, regions and countries at The University of Manchester. Closes 30 May. More information and how to apply on the [Alliance Manchester Business School website](#).
- **Research Economist** at the Bank of England working with Jonathan Haskel, Paul Mizen and Janice Eberly, analysing results from the Decision Maker Panel survey of UK businesses. This pre-doctoral, 12-month extendible position is being funded by the [ESRC](#), along with The Productivity Institute. [Apply on the Bank of England website](#).



Save the date: TPI conference

The Productivity Institute will be holding a one-day Research Conference on 22 June, which will be held in-person at Alliance Manchester Business School with hybrid option. More information to follow.



IPM No. 41 available online

The latest issue of the the [International Productivity Monitor](#), in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Living Standards, is out now. Three of the co-authors on its symposium on the links between productivity and pay featured on [Episode 12 of our Productivity Puzzles podcast](#). If you do not yet have a free subscription to the IPM, please sign up [on our website](#).

Upcoming Events

20 April Brown Bag seminar (TPI academics only). Manuel Tong - rescheduled.

20 April PrOPEL Hub [research webinar](#) on HR training and productivity.

4 May Brown Bag seminar (TPI academics only). Jagjit Chadha and Issam Samiri.

18 May Brown Bag seminar (TPI academics only). Oleksii Romanko - rescheduled.

22 April Bennett Institute for Public Policy Annual Conference. [Book on their website](#).

25-27 May ESCoE Conference on Economic Measurement. [Book on their website](#).

20 June The Productivity Institute Research Conference. More information to follow.

TPI Publications

Our Working Papers and Productivity Insight Papers can be [found on our website](#).

- Is the productivity slowdown UK-specific? [Read](#)
- Do climate policies explain the productivity puzzle? [Read](#)
- Inward investment and UK productivity [Read](#)
- Understanding productivity: Organisational Capital perspectives [Read](#)
- Climate change and fiscal responsibility [Read](#)
- UK's Industrial Policy: Learning from the past? [Read](#).
- The idea of productivity [Read](#)
- Covid-19 business support and SME productivity in the UK [Read](#)
- Uber And Beyond: Policy Implications for the UK [Read](#)
- Public Investments in COVID-19 green packages [Read](#)
- Leveraging the benefits of location decision into performance [Read](#)
- Incentive regulation, productivity growth and environmental effects: the case of electricity networks in Great Britain [Read](#)
- Productivity in UK healthcare during and after the Covid-19 pandemic [Read](#)
- A concerted effort to tackle the productivity puzzle during the post-COVID era [Read](#)
- Human Capital & productivity [Read](#)
- Productivity & the Pandemic [Read](#)
- Productivity Growth and Capital Deepening in the Fourth Industrial Revolution [Read](#)

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Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council

The Productivity Institute, Headquarters: Alliance Manchester Business School, Booth Street West, The University of Manchester, Manchester, Manchester M15 6PB, England

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