



Wednesday, 28 June 2022



## First Productivity Commission report released

The real cost of the UK's productivity underperformance has been laid bare by the [first report](#) released by the Productivity Commission, hosted by The Productivity Institute's partner, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. The report was picked up by [CityAM](#).

- The Commission's Matt Panteli discusses its plans and objectives in the NIESR blog [Exploring the UK Productivity Commission](#).



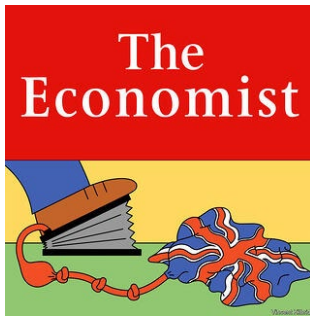
## Tradability, Productivity and Regional Disparities

TPI Research Director, Professor Tony Venables has [published a new paper](#) with Patricia G. Rice which examines why regional disparities are so persistent and why adjustment mechanisms fail. In an accompanying lecture at Alliance Manchester Business School, he also discussed how the economic shocks of the 1970s are still felt today and introduced the sparsity index of sectors in relation to job location.

- Re-watch Tony's lecture *Why are some places more prosperous than others?* on the [TPI website](#).

## Britain's productivity problem: The Economist

Soumaya Keynes' long-read, *Britain's productivity*



*problem is long-standing and getting worse*, highlights the productivity problems that the UK needs to fix, alongside a brief history of Britain's role as the world's "productivity frontier". It features input from a number of TPI members, including Bart van Ark, Philip McCann, Diane Coyle, Robert Inklaar, John Fernald, Peter Goodridge and Jonathan Haskel. Take a look on [the Economist website](#).



## How public service can improve productivity

Bart van Ark summarises the key drivers and outcomes of his upcoming report on public sector productivity for Capita in this [short teaser video](#). Digital transformation, an agile workforce and the delivery chain will all be critical factors in improving public sector productivity. You can pre-register for the report on the [Capita website](#).



## The Wales Productivity Challenge: new podcast

Is Wales striking a balance between raising productivity and improving health and wellbeing? On the latest episode of Productivity Puzzles, TPI Managing Director Bart van Ark is joined by [Rhian Elston](#), Investment Director at the Development Bank of Wales, [Ben Cottam](#), Head of Wales at the Federation of Small Businesses and [Andrew Henley](#), Professor of Entrepreneurship and Economics at Cardiff Business School. You can listen to these three experts on [our website](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.



## Research Conference recap

Thank you to all who attended in person, and on-line to our Research Conference, held at Alliance Manchester Business School. Recordings of the keynote speeches - from LSE's Anna Valero and OECD's Dirk Pilat - can be found [on our website](#).

## Register for Thomas Philippon

## THOMAS PHILIPPON SEMINAR

### "Additive Growth" seminar

New York University Professor Thomas Philippon will discuss his new Working Paper *Additive Growth* in a special 90-minute webinar on **6 July** from 12.30pm. The paper discusses how the additive growth model, rather than the exponential model, provides more useful medium-forecasts of total factor productivity. Book on [Eventbrite](#).



### The slowdown in UK innovation and productivity

Peter Goodridge and Jonathan Haskel's new working paper conducts a comprehensive sources-of-growth analysis for the UK non-farm market sector, from 2000-2009 using the latest ONS data. Read *Accounting for the slowdown in UK innovation and productivity* [on the TPI website](#).



### Productivity opportunities and risks in a low-carbon age

Find out the productivity opportunities and risks in a transformative, low-carbon and digital age in an executive summary of a paper written by Frank Geels, Jonatan Pinkse and Dimitri Zenghelis. It sets out the barriers to productivity growth when it comes to digital and Net Zero transitions, as well as the focus for the future. Read both on the [TPI website](#).



### TPI citations in UK government

- Ken Mayhew has written a paper for the Department for Education's Skills and Productivity Board. In [Left Behind Localities and Levelling Up: Skills and Productivity](#), he talks about the work of The Productivity Institute, the Regional Productivity Forums and the Productivity Commission and references Philip McCann's work on place-based inequalities.
- The work of Professor Bart van Ark was mentioned in a written question from Angela Rayner MP, to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and

Sport about "steps to ensure that digital technologies can support inclusive productivity". Read her question and the answer from by Chris Philp MP, on the [UK Parliament website](#).

IN CASE  
YOU  
MISSED IT

## TPI expertise

- Jennifer Halliday, chair of the Northwest Productivity Forum, was a guest on Helen Beedham's *The Business of Being Brilliant* podcast. Read and listen to Jennifer's regional and UK-wide insights on the episode [Unblocking productivity](#).
- Bart van Ark was a guest on the University of Glasgow's [Spotlight](#) podcast. The episode focused on productivity as well as the issue of skills and training policy.
- Recordings from the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence's (ESCoE) 25-27 May Conference on Economic Measurement are now available to view [online](#). The special session on *British productivity in the age of Covid* features TPI members Adrian Pabst, Paul Mortimer-Lee, Bart van Ark and Tony Venables.
- The Enterprise Research Centre's 7th annual State of Small Business Britain Conference at the Shard, London, was held on 16 June. It included a session on *The Productivity Transition*, to which TPI members Mark Hart, Jun Du, Stephen Roper and Bart van Ark all contributed. Read a write-up of the event on the [ERC website](#).



## Research opportunities

The Productivity Institute and its partners are offering the following research job and publication opportunities:

- **Early Career Research Fellowship** based at the [Enterprise Research Centre](#) at Warwick Business School. The successful applicant will work with [Professor Stephen Roper](#), and [Dr Anastasia Ri](#) on projects related to the Net Zero transition and broader issues relating to business innovation and productivity. Closes **10 July**. Apply on the [University of Warwick jobs website](#).
- **Call for special issue papers** from the British Journal of Management. This special issue on

*Reimagining business and management as a force for good* encourages theoretical and empirical contributions on how business and management is taking on a broader social purpose in order to address grand societal challenges. Closes **15 October**. Submit an article on [Wiley Online Library](#).

## Upcoming Events

- 30 June** National Forum for Health and Wellbeing at Work event. Book [on the AMBS website](#).
- 30 June** What's next for levelling up in Greater Manchester event. [Book on Eventbrite](#).
- 6 July** Thomas Philippon seminar. [Book on Eventbrite](#).
- 6 July** NIESR's Deane-Stone Lecture from Stian Westlake. [Book on their website](#).
- 14 September** Brown Bag seminar (TPI academics only). Nigel Driffield.
- 12-13 October** World KLEMS Conference 2022, [hosted by TPI at AMBS](#).

## TPI Publications

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

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