Labour Compensation and Productivity in the UK: How does decoupling vary by sector and its theoretical implications.

Outline:

* Introduction 500
  + Kaldor, Sraffa, Neoclassical Growth Models.
  + Divergence between productivity and compensation in the US since 1970s, in the EU since 1993, in Japan since X (any other interesting countries to consider? South America? Africa? Rest of Asia?)
  + Pasimeni writes: [using the same deflator is better for estimating the changes in functional income distribution] – this is exactly what the paper is supposed to do; many papers gloss over this angle and focus instead on purchasing power.
* Lit Review 750
  + See below
  + Most literature clearly finds a decoupling,
* Analysis 1500
  + Econometric analysis: use Pasimeni’s method.
    - It’s simple, very applicable to a single country.
    - Also refresh on Ciarli, Di Ubaldo, Savona
  + Visual representation of labour share changes
    - Use Brill et al.’s method for visualisation. Labour costs are given in nominal terms which gives the chance to deflate according to both CPI and PPI and observe changes.
    - Teichgraeber says that the difference in deflators is very small – this is odd, considering the tax wedge would likely be bigger in the UK than the US?
* Evaluation 2000
  + What do results mean for Sraffa, Kaldor, and Neoclassical growth models?
  + What could be improved?
    - Self employed incorporation (reference Teichgraeber and any papers he mentions which outline how to incorporate the productivity/compensation of self-employed).
* Conclusion 500

250 words to spare if needed.

Plan:

* In neoclassical economics the labour share of income is equal to its marginal productivity. In other words, the more capital intensive an industry is, the higher the rate of profit should be; the more labour intensive an industry is, the lower the rate of profit should be.
* Empirically, labour compensation has been decoupled from labour productivity. If this is the case, it calls into questions the theoretical underpinnings of the aggregate production function.
* There are alternative theories of distribution, such as the Sraffian view, which posits that the rate of profit is exogenously determined and not connected to output. Instead, a given rate of profit will determine distribution.
  + Kaldor posited that the stability of the labour-capital compensation ratio was a “stylised fact” of economies.
* Alternatively, it could be the case that industries are simply becoming more capital intensive, such that increases in productivity are due to capital and consequently the compensation is shifted toward capital income.
  + This theory comes from the neoclassical production function.
* Understanding the connection between productivity and compensation is important: if the two become decoupled, then increases in productivity do not simply lead to an increase in the standard of living, however this is the current mainstream consensus.
* (Ciarli, Di Ubaldo, & Savona, 2021) run a regression on productivity and wages not including compensation. My analysis would include compensation but would not be an econometric model, instead a visual model outlining where the labour share has fallen or risen plus the difference in deflators.
* Eurostat data comprises of 2001-2022.
  + Could do two periods: 2001-2007 and 2007-2019.
    - This would allow us to see more concrete changes in decoupling pre- and post-financial crisis.
  + Finally one analysis of both.

Notes on sources:

* Di Ubaldo & Savona (2021)
  + Inequality *due to* labour productivity has decreased.
    - Effects of labour productivity on median wages were higher than on the average wage.
  + Slough and Heathrow are strongly lagging behind
  + In most sectors there is no statistical significance between labour productivity and wages, but there are a few key sectors that explain most of the productivity.
* Teichgraeber & Van Reenen (2021)
  + There appears to be no mean decoupling,
  + Median decoupling is mostly explained through changes to inequality,
  + Non-wage compensation and self-employment present challenges for the determination of the gap.
* (Brill, Holman, Morris, Raichoudhary, & Yosif, 2017)
  + Want to recreate their methodology and graphs for the UK (something no other paper has done)
* Pasimeni (2018)
  + They acknowledge the importance of deflating by the output deflator in order to study the “relative functional distribution of income” however prefer to still deflate by different deflators in order to investigate standard of living (i.e., the tax wedge).
  + Their econometric analysis is interesting but cannot tell us the relationship between marginal labour productivity and its income share.
    - Possibilities of mirroring econometric analysis.

Data Sources:

* **Labour Cost Index**, Nace Rev 2 Categories, **Quarterly**, Eurostat
  + <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lc_lci_r2_q__custom_15260113/default/line?lang=en>
* **Labour Cost Index**, Nace Rev 2 Categories, **Yearly**, Eurostat
  + <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/lc_lci_r2_a__custom_15260097/default/line?lang=en>
* **Gross Value Added by Industry**, More Categories than Nace Rev 2, **Yearly**, ONS
  + <https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/compendium/unitedkingdomnationalaccountsthebluebook/2021/supplementarytables/bb2102industrialanalysis.xlsx>

**Todo:**

* **Run some preliminary regressions on compensation and productivity using Pasimeni’s method and note results.**

# References

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Broome, J. (1977). Sraffa's Standard Commodity. *Australian Economic Papers*, 231-236.

Ciarli, T., Di Ubaldo, M., & Savona, M. (2021). *The weak link between productivity and wages in London: Evidence from firms and local labour markets (2004-2014).* London: The Greater London Authority.

Ciarli, T., Saldago, E., & Savona, M. (2018). *Do Low-Wage Workers Benefit from Productivity Growth Recovery?* Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Guerriero, M. (2012). *The Labour Share of Income around the World. Evidence from a Panel Dataset.* Bordeux: University of Bordeux.

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