

Working Papers in Economics: the NBER Series

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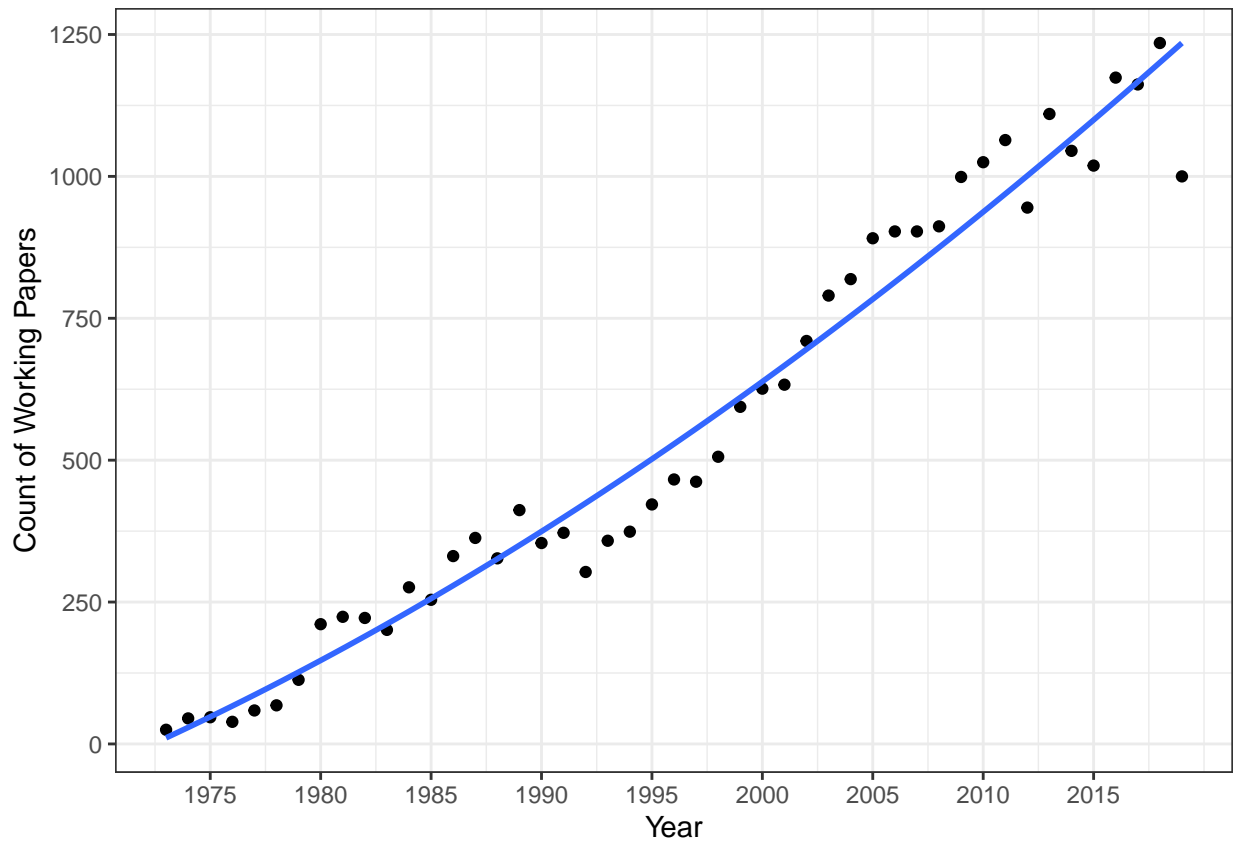
UNFINISHED, TO BE COMPLETED OVER THE NEXT WEEK

Publishing is a main goal of academic economists, but rarely is it as simple as write the paper then publish. Projects can take years, and often transform over the process of work, data analysis and dissemination of results. An important part of gauging the impact of ongoing research is releasing a presentable version of the work as a research paper. The National Bureau of Economics Research (NBER) hosts a heavily circulated series for its affiliates to register working papers, including pre-published versions of some very famous research papers and some heavily cited working papers themselves.

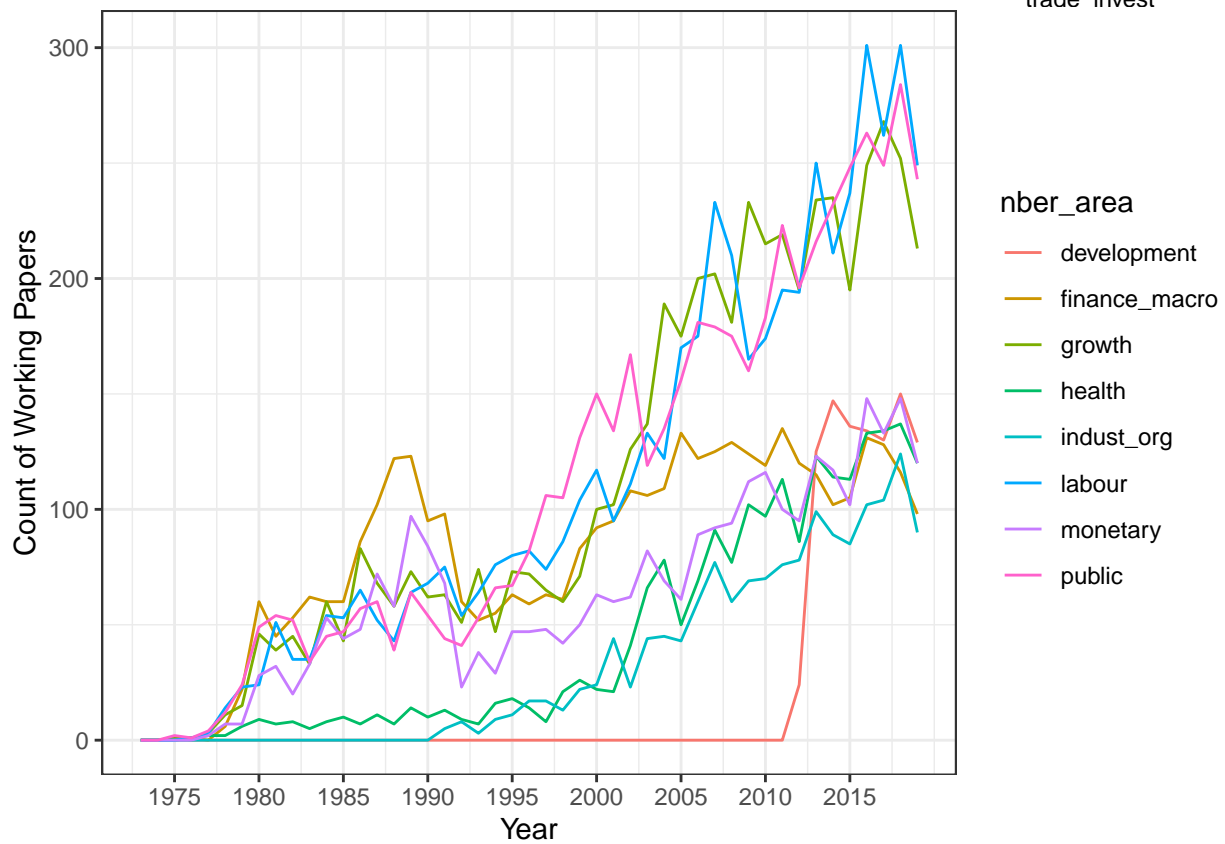
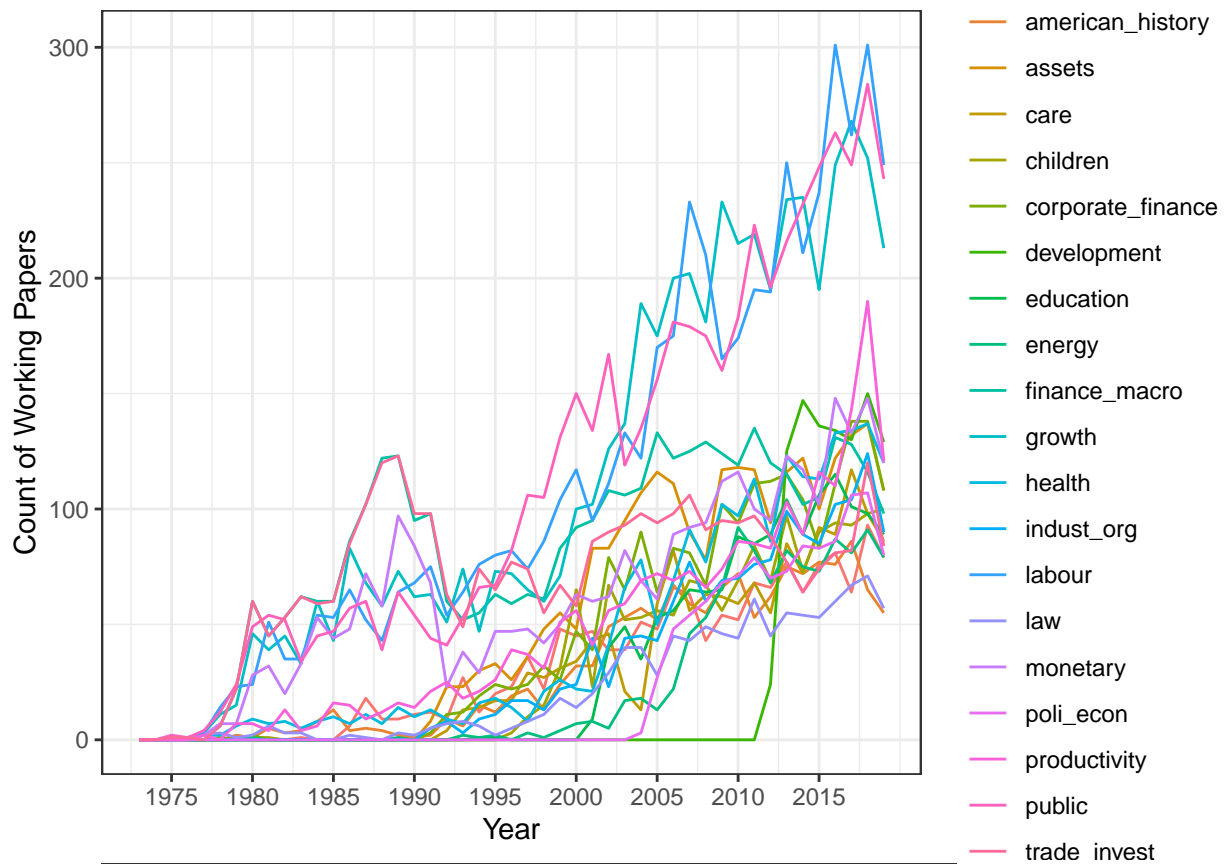
The dataset

The NBER collection includes 26393 papers (as of 25 Oct 2019), starting with a small number of technical reports in 1973 to hundreds of modern research papers in the 2000s.

The series has constantly been growing as a source of working papers. Unclear whether this is because of a rise in working papers in general, or because of a rise in use of the NBER series. (note: I can test this with updated listing of other working papers)



And by area of expertise (note: papers can be cross registered, and are likely to be so in more recent years).

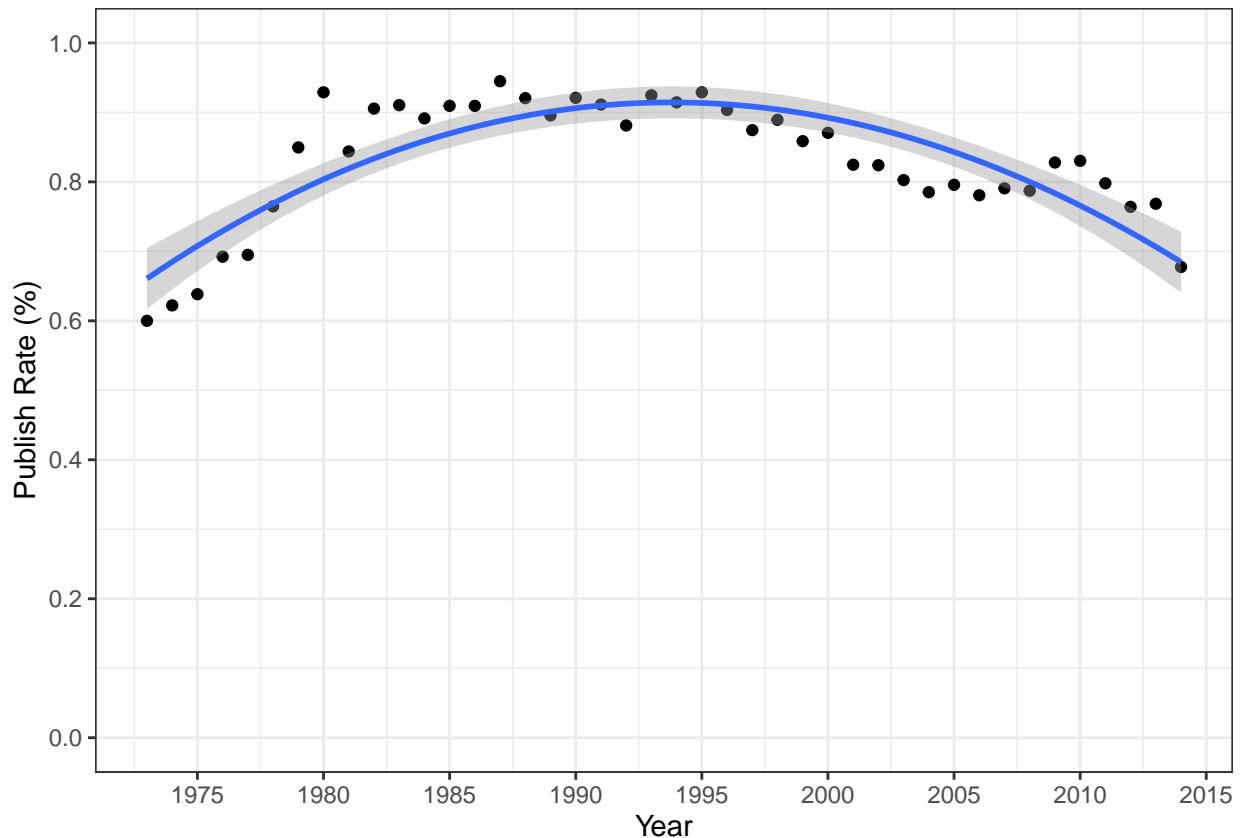


Consider some big revisions to this graph, perhaps a cdf plot would be better, easier to differentiate areas.

To-do: Embed with quotes of famous working papers, and set the stage for a difference between published and un-published papers.

Publication

The majority of papers in every year go on to be published. The most recent years (2015 and on) have a very low publishing rate – papers likely to yet be published?



To-do: Textual difference

Textual analysis along the publication outcome:

Let's compare textual measures (sentiment, relative word usage, measure of mathematical/empirical words) across dimensions: published vs unpublished.

Examine the outcome within groups -> are there any NBER programmes we would expect to have changed specifically?

Perhaps the rise in empiricism is more pronounced in labour than, say, macroeconomics and that this can be tested empirically.

Conclusion: the wider economics publishing pipeline

Write about the starting point of my wider research project.