

Has ICT Polarized Skill Demand? Evidence from Eleven Countries over 25 years*

Guy Michaels[†], Ashwini Natraj[‡] and John Van Reenen[§]

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Abstract

We test the hypothesis that information and communication technologies (ICT) “polarize” labor markets, by increasing demand for the highly educated at the expense of the middle educated, with little effect on low-educated workers. Using data on the US, Japan, and nine European countries from 1980-2004, we find that industries with faster ICT growth shifted demand from middle educated workers to highly educated workers, consistent with ICT-based polarization. Trade openness is also associated with polarization, but this is not robust to controlling for R&D. Technologies account for up to a quarter of the growth in demand for highly educated workers.

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[†]London School of Economics, Centre for Economic Performance, CEPR, and BREAD

[‡]Centre for Economic Performance and London School of Economics

[§]Centre for Economic Performance, LSE, NBER and CEPR

1. Introduction

The demand for more highly educated workers has risen for many decades across OECD countries. Despite a large increase in the supply of such workers, the return to college education has not fallen. Instead, it has risen significantly since the early 1980s in the US, UK, and many other nations (see Autor and Acemoglu, 2010). The consensus view is that this increase in skill demand is linked to technological progress (e.g. Goldin and Katz, 2008) rather than increased trade with low wage countries (although see Krugman, 2008, for a more revisionist view).

Recent analyses of data through the 2000s, however, suggest a more nuanced view of the change in demand for skills. Autor, Katz, and Kearney (2007, 2008) use US data to show that although “upper tail” inequality (between the 90th and 50th percentiles of the wage distribution) has continued to rise in an almost secular way over the last thirty years, “lower tail” inequality (between the 50th and 10th percentiles of the distribution) increased during the 1980s but has stayed relatively flat from around 1990. They also show a related pattern for different education groups, with the hourly wages of college graduates’ rising relative to high school graduates since 1980, and high school graduates gaining relative to high school dropouts during the 1980s but not since then. When considering occupations, rather than education groups, Goos and Manning (2007) describe a polarization of the workforce. In the UK middle-skilled occupations have declined relative to both the highly skilled and low-skilled occupations. Spietz-Oener (2006) finds related results for Germany and Goos, Manning and Salomons (2009) find similar results for several OECD countries¹.

What could account for these trends? One explanation is that new technologies, such as information and communication technologies (ICT), are complemen-

¹See also Dustmann, Ludsteck and Schonberg (2009) and Smith (2008).

tary with human capital and rapid falls in quality-adjusted ICT prices have therefore increased skill demand. There is a large body of literature broadly consistent with this notion². A more sophisticated view has been offered by Autor, Levy and Murnane (2003) who emphasize that ICT substitutes for *routine* tasks but complements *non-routine* analytical tasks. Many routine tasks were traditionally performed by less educated workers, such as assembly workers in a car factory, and many of the analytical non-routine tasks are performed by more educated workers such as consultants, advertising executives and physicians. However, many routine tasks are also performed in occupations employing middle educated workers, such as bank clerks, and these groups have found demand for their services falling as a result of computerization. Similarly many less educated workers are employed in non-routine manual tasks such as janitors or cab drivers, and these tasks are much less affected by ICT. Since the numbers of routine jobs in the traditional manufacturing sectors (like car assembly) declined substantially in the 1970s, subsequent ICT growth may have primarily increased demand for highly educated workers at the expense of those in the *middle* of the educational distribution and left the least educated (mainly working in non-routine manual jobs) largely unaffected.

Although this theory is attractive there is currently little direct international evidence that ICT causes a substitution from middle-skilled workers to high-skilled workers. Autor, Levy and Murnane (2003) show some consistent trends and Autor and Dorn (2009) exploit spatial variation across to show that the growth in low-skilled services has been faster in areas where initially there were high proportions of routine jobs. But these are solely within one country - the US³

²See Bond and Van Reenen (2007) for a survey. Industry level data are used by Berman, Bound and Griliches (1994), Autor, Katz and Krueger (1998) and Machin and Van Reenen (1998). Krueger (1993), DiNardo and Pischke (1997) and Lang (2002) use individual data.

³The closest antecedent of our paper is perhaps Autor, Katz and Krueger (1998, Table V) who found that in the US the industry level growth of demand for US high school graduates

In this paper we test the hypothesis that ICT may be behind the polarization of the labor market by implementing a simple test using 25 years of international cross-industry data. If the ICT-based explanation for polarization is correct, then we would expect that industries and countries that had a faster growth in ICT also experienced an increase in demand for college educated workers, relative to workers with intermediate levels of education. In this paper we show that this is indeed a robust feature of the international data.

We exploit the new EUKLEMS database, which provides data on college graduates and disaggregates non-college workers into two groups: those with low education and those with “middle level” education.⁴ For example, in the US the middle education group includes those with some college and high school graduates, but excludes high school drop-outs and GEDs (see Timmer et al, 2007, Table 5.3 for the country specific breakdown). The EUKLEMS database covers eleven developed economies (US, Japan, and nine countries in Western Europe) from 1980-2004 and also contains data on ICT capital. In analyzing the data we consider not only the potential role of ICT, but also several alternative explanations. In particular, we examine whether the role of trade in changing skill demand could have become more important in recent years (most of the early studies pre-dated the growth of China and India as major players).

The idea behind our empirical strategy is that the rapid fall in quality-adjusted ICT prices will have a greater effect in some country-industry pairs that are more reliant on ICT. This is because some industries are for technological reasons inherently more reliant on ICT than others. We have no compelling natural experiment,

between 1993 and 1979 was negatively correlated with the growth of computer use between 1993 and 1984. We find this is a robust feature of 11 OECD countries over a much longer time period. For other related work see Black and Spitz-Oener (2010), Firpo, Fortin and Lemieux (2009), and work surveyed by Acemoglu and Autor (2010).

⁴In the paper we refer to the three skill groups as "high-skilled" (or sometimes as the "college" group), "middle-skilled", and "low-skilled".

however, so our results should be seen primarily as conditional correlations. We do, however, implement some instrumental variable strategies using the industry-specific base year levels of US ICT intensity and/or routine tasks as an instrument for subsequent ICT increases in other countries. These support the OLS results. We conclude that technology - both ICT and Research and Development (R&D) - has raised relative demand for college educated workers and, consistent with the ICT-based polarization hypothesis, this increase has come mainly from reducing the relative demand for middle-skilled workers rather than low-skilled workers.

Our approach of using industry and education is complementary to the alternative approach of using occupations and their associated tasks. Goos, Manning and Salomons (2010), for example, use wage and employment changes in occupations based on task content, for example, to show that “routine” occupations are in decline and that these are in the middle of the wage distribution. In order to examine ICT-based theories of polarization, however, we believe it is important to have direct measures of ICT capital. Such data is not generally available for individuals, which is why using the EUKLEMS data is so valuable. As noted above, however, we do use the occupational information to construct instrumental variables for the growth of ICT at the industry level over time.

The paper is laid out as follows. Section II describes the empirical model, Section III the data and Section IV the empirical results. Section V offers some concluding comments.

2. Empirical Model

Consider the short-run variable cost function, $CV(\cdot)$:

$$CV(W^H, W^M, W^L; C, K, Q) \tag{2.1}$$

where W indicates hourly wages and superscripts denote education/skill group S (H = highly educated workers, M = middle educated workers and L = low educated workers), K = non-ICT capital services, C = ICT capital services and Q = value added. If we assume that the capital stocks are quasi-fixed, factor prices are exogenous and that the cost function can be approximated by a second order flexible functional form such as the translog, then cost minimization (using Shephard's Lemma) implies the following three skill share equations:

$$SHARE^H = \phi_{HH} \ln(W^H/W^L) + \phi_{MH} \ln(W^M/W^L) + \alpha_{CH} \ln(C/Q) + \alpha_{KH} \ln(K/Q) + \alpha_{QH} \ln Q \quad (2.2)$$

$$SHARE^M = \phi_{HM} \ln(W^H/W^L) + \phi_{MM} \ln(W^M/W^L) + \alpha_{CM} \ln(C/Q) + \alpha_{KM} \ln(K/Q) + \alpha_{QM} \ln Q \quad (2.3)$$

$$SHARE^L = \phi_{HL} \ln(W^H/W^L) + \phi_{ML} \ln(W^M/W^L) + \alpha_{CL} \ln(C/Q) + \alpha_{KL} \ln(K/Q) + \alpha_{QL} \ln Q, \quad (2.4)$$

where $SHARE^S = \frac{W^S N^S}{W^H N^H + W^S N^M + W^L N^L}$ is the wage bill share of skill group $S = \{H, M, L\}$ and N^S is the number of hours worked by skill group S . Our hypothesis of the ICT-based polarization theory is that $\alpha_H > 0$ and $\alpha_M < 0$ ⁵.

Our empirical specifications are based on these equations. We assume that labor markets are national in scope and include country by time effects to capture relative wages (ϕ_{jt}). We allow for unobserved heterogeneity between industry by country pairs (η_{ij}) and include fixed effects to account for these, giving the following three equations:

⁵The exact correspondence between the coefficients on the capital inputs and the Hicks-Allen elasticity of complementarity is more complex (see Brown and Christensen, 1981).

$$SHARE^S = \phi_{jt} + \eta_{ij} + \alpha_{CS} \ln(C/Q)_{ijt} + \alpha_{KS} \ln(K/Q)_{ijt} + \alpha_{QS} \ln Q_{ijt}, \quad (2.5)$$

where i = industry, j = country and t = year. We estimate in long (25 year) differences, Δ , to look at the historical trends and smooth out measurement error. We substitute levels rather than logarithms (i.e. $\Delta(C/Q)$ instead of $\Delta \ln(C/Q)$) because of the very large changes in ICT intensity over this time period. Some industry by country pairs had close to zero IT intensity in 1980 so their change is astronomical in logarithmic terms⁶. Consequently our three key estimating equations are:

$$\Delta SHARE_{ijt}^S = c_j^S + \beta_1^S \Delta(C/Q)_{ijt} + \beta_2^S \Delta(K/Q)_{ijt} + \beta_3^S \Delta \ln Q_{ijt} + u_{ijt}^S. \quad (2.6)$$

In the robustness tests we also consider augmenting equation (2.6) in various ways. Since ICT is only one aspect of technical change we also consider using Research and Development expenditures. Additionally, we consider trade variables (such as imports plus exports over value added) to test whether industries that were exposed to more trade upgraded the skills of their workforce at a more rapid rate than those who did not. This is a pragmatic empirical approach to examining trade effects. Under a strict Heckscher-Ohlin approach trade is a general equilibrium effect increasing wage inequality throughout the economy so looking at the variation by industry would be uninformative. However, since trade costs have declined more rapidly in some sectors than others (e.g. due to trade liberalization) we would expect the actual flows of trade to proxy this change and there to be a larger effect on workers in these sectors than in others who were less affected (Krugman, 2008, also makes this argument).

⁶The range of $\Delta \ln(C/Q)$ lies between -1 and 23.5. We report robustness checks using $\frac{\Delta(C/Q)}{C/Q}$ as an approximation.

Appendix A considers a theoretical model with parameter restrictions over equation (2.1) that implies that ICT is a substitute for middle-skilled labor and a complement with highly skilled labor. Comparative static results from the model suggest that as ICT increases (caused by a fall in the quality-adjusted price of ICT) the wage bill share of skilled workers rises and the share of middle-skilled workers falls. It also shows that all else equal an exogenous increase in the supply of middle-skilled workers will cause their wage bill share to rise. Thus, although ICT could reduce the demand for the middle-skilled group their share could still rise because of the long-run increase in supply.

3. Data

3.1. Data Construction

The main source of data for this paper is the EUKLEMS dataset, which contains data on value added, labor, capital, skills and ICT for various industries in many developed countries (see Timmer et al, 2007). The EUKLEMS data are constructed using data from each country's National Statistical Office (e.g. the US Census Bureau) and harmonized with each country's national accounts. EUKLEMS contains some data on most OECD countries. But since we require data on skill composition, ICT and non-ICT capital and value added between 1980 and 2004, our sample of countries is restricted to eleven: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK and the USA⁷.

Another choice we had to make regards the set of industries we analyze. Since our baseline year (1980) was close to the peak of the oil boom, we have dropped

⁷In order to increase the number of countries we would need to considerably shorten the period we analyze. For example, limiting our analysis to 1992-2004 (12 years instead of 25) only adds Belgium. To further add Czech Republic, Slovenia and Sweden we would need to restrict the sample to 1995-2004. In order to preserve the longer time series we focused on the 11 core OECD countries.

energy-related sectors - mining and quarrying, coke manufactures and the supply of natural gas - from the sample (we report results that are very robust to the inclusion of these sectors). The remaining sample includes 27 industries in each country (see Appendix Table A1). Wage data by skill category are only reported separately by industry in some countries. We therefore aggregate industries to the lowest possible level of aggregation for which all the variables we use could be constructed with the precise level of disaggregation varied by country (see Appendix Table A2)⁸. Our final sample has 208 observations on country-industry cells for 1980 and 2004. We also have data for intervening years, which we use in some of the robustness checks.

For each country-industry-year cell in our dataset we construct a number of variables. Our main outcome is the wage bill share of workers of different educational groups, which is a standard indicator for skill demand. In 9 of the 11 countries, the high-skilled group indicates whether an employee has attained a college degree⁹. A novel feature of our analysis is that we also consider the wage bill of middle-skilled workers. The precise composition of this group varies across countries, since educational systems differ considerably. But typically, this group consists of high school graduates, people with some college education, and people with non-academic professional degrees.

Our main measure for use of new technology is Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capital divided by value added. Similarly, we also use the measure of non-ICT capital divided by value added. EUKLEMS builds these variables using the perpetual inventory method from the underlying investment flow data for several types of capital (see Data Appendix). For the tradable industries

⁸Results are robust to throwing away information and harmonizing all countries at the same level of industry aggregation.

⁹In two countries the classification of high-skilled workers is different: in Denmark it includes people in “long cycle” higher education and in Finland it includes people with tertiary education or higher.

(Agriculture and Manufacturing) we construct measures of trade flows using UN COMTRADE data¹⁰. Details are contained in the Data Appendix.

3.2. Descriptive statistics

3.2.1. Cross Country Trends

Panel A of Table 1 shows summary statistics for the levels of the key variables in 1980 across each country and Panel B presents the same for the changes through 2004. The levels have to be interpreted with care as exact comparison of qualifications between countries is difficult, which is why wage bill shares are useful summary measures as each qualification is weighted by its price (the wage)¹¹. The ranking of countries looks sensible with the US having the highest share of high-skilled (29 percent), followed by Finland (27 percent). All countries have experienced significant skill upgrading as indicated by the growth in the high-skilled wage bill share in column (1) of Panel B, on average the share increased from 14.3 percent in 1980 to 24.3 in 2004.

The UK had the fastest absolute increase in the high-skilled wage bill share (16.5 percentage points) and is also the country with the largest increase in ICT intensity. The US had the second largest growth of ICT and the third largest increase in the high-skilled wage bill share (13.9 percentage points), but all countries have experienced rapid increases in ICT intensity, which doubled its 1980 share of value added.

The change of the middle education share in column (2) is more uneven. Although the mean growth is positive, it is relatively small compared to the highly educated (8.7 percentage points on a base of 51.1 percent), with several countries

¹⁰Using a crosswalk (available from the authors upon request) we calculate the value of total trade, imports and exports with the rest of the world and separately with OECD and non-OECD countries. We identify all 30 countries that were OECD members in 2007 as part of the OECD.

¹¹Estimating in differences also reduces the suspected bias from international differences as the definitions are stable within country over time.

experiencing no growth or a decrease (the US and the Netherlands). The model in Appendix A shows how the wage bill share of the middle-skilled could rise as the supply of this type of skill increases, so this supply increase can offset the fall in relative demand caused by technical change. Moreover, as Figure 2A shows, although the wage bill share of the middle group rose more rapidly (in percentage point terms) between 1980 and 1986, it subsequently decelerated. Indeed, in the last six year sub-period, 1998-2004, the wage bill share of middle-skilled workers actually fell. At the same time, the wage bill share of low-skilled workers continued to decline throughout the period 1980-2004, but at an increasingly slower rate. Figure 2B shows the US, the technology leader that is often a future indicator for other nations. From 1998-2004 the wage bill share of the middle educated declined more rapidly than that of the low-skilled workers. Figure 2B is in line with the finding that while college educated US workers continued to gain relative to high-school graduates, high-school graduates gained relatively to college dropouts in the 1980s but not in the 1990s (see Autor, Katz and Kearney, 2008, Figure 5).

3.2.2. Cross Industry Trends

Table 2 breaks down the data by industry. In levels (column (1)) the highly educated were disproportionately clustered into services both in the public sector (especially education) and private sector (e.g. real estate and business services). The industries that upgraded rapidly (column (8)) were also mainly services (e.g. finance, telecoms and business services), but also in manufacturing (e.g. chemicals and electrical equipment). At the other end of the skill distribution, the textile industry, which initially had the lowest wage bill share of skilled workers, upgraded somewhat more than other low-skill industries (transport and storage, construction, hotels and restaurants, and agriculture). This raises the issue of

mean reversion, so we are careful to later show robustness tests to conditioning on the initial levels of the skill shares in our regressions. In fact, the ranking of industries in terms of skill intensity in 1980 and their skill upgrading over the next 25 years was quite similar across countries. This is striking, because the countries we analyze had different labor market institutions and different institutional experiences over the period we analyze. This suggests something fundamental is at play that cuts across different sets of institutions.

ICT grew dramatically from 1980-2004, accounting for more than 42 percent of the average increase in capital services. The increased ICT diffusion was also quite uneven: financial intermediation and telecoms experienced rapid increases in ICT intensity, while in other industries, such as agriculture, there was almost no increase.

Figures 3, 4, and 5 plot changes by industry in the wage bill shares of high, medium, and low-skilled workers, respectively, against changes in ICT intensity. The top panel (A) of each figure includes all industries with fitted regression lines (solid line for all industry and dashed line for non-traded sectors only). The bottom panel (B) restricts attention to the traded sectors. Figure 3A shows that the industries with the fastest ICT upgrading had the largest increase in the high-skilled wage bill share. One might be worried that two service sectors, “Post & Telecommunications” and “Financial Intermediation”, are driving this result, which is one reason Figure 3B drops all the non-traded sectors. In fact, the relationship between high-skilled wage bill growth and ICT growth is actually stronger in these “well measured” sectors.

Figure 4 repeats this analysis for the middle educated groups. We observe the exact opposite relationship to Figure 3: the industries with the faster ICT growth had the largest fall in the middle-skilled share whether we look at the whole economy (Figure 4A) or just the traded sectors (Figure 4B). Finally, Figure

5 shows that there is essentially no relationship (Figure 5A) or a mildly positive one (Figure 5B) between the change of the share of the least educated and ICT growth.

These figures are highly suggestive of empirical support for the hypothesis that ICT polarizes the skill structure: increasing demand at the top, reducing demand in the middle and having little effect at the bottom. To examine this link more rigorously, we now turn to the econometric analysis.

4. Econometric Results

4.1. Basic Results

Our first set of results for the skill share regressions are reported in Table 3. The dependent variables are changes from 1980-2004 in the wage bill share of the high-skilled in Panel A, the middle-skilled in Panel B and the low-skilled in Panel C. The first four columns look across the entire economy and the last four columns condition on the sub-sample of “tradable” sectors where we have information on imports and exports.

Column (1) of Panel A reports the coefficient on the constant, which indicates that on average there was a ten percentage point increase in the college wage bill share. This is a very large increase, considering the average skill share in 1980 (across our sample of countries) was only 14%. Column (2) includes the growth in ICT capital intensity. The technology variable has a large, positive and significant coefficient and reduces the regression constant to 8.7. Column (3) includes the growth of non-ICT capital intensity and value added. The coefficient on non-ICT capital is negative and insignificant, suggesting that there is no sign of (non-ICT) capital-skill complementarity. Some studies have found capital-skill complementarity (e.g. Griliches, 1969), but few of these studies have disaggregated capital into its ICT and non-ICT components, so the evidence for capital-skill comple-

mentarity may be due to aggregating over high-tech capital that is complementary with skills and lower tech capital that is not. Similarly, few studies have looked over such a long time span as we do in this paper. The coefficient on value added growth is positive and significant suggesting that skill upgrading has been occurring more rapidly in the fastest growing sectors (this is consistent with Berman, Rohini and Tan, 2005). Column (4) includes country fixed effects. This is a demanding specification because the specification is already in differences so this specification essentially allows for country specific trends. The coefficient on ICT falls (from 65 to 47) but remains significant at conventional levels¹².

We re-estimate these specifications for the tradeable industries in the next four columns. Column (5) shows that the overall increase in the college wage-bill share from 1980-2004 was 9 percentage points - similar to that in the whole sample. Columns (6) - (8) add in our measure of ICT and other controls. The coefficient on ICT in the tradeable sector is positive, highly significant and larger than in the overall sample (e.g. 129 in column (8)).

Panel B of Table 3 reports estimates for the same specifications as panel A, but this time for middle-skilled workers. Column (1) shows that the wage bill share of middle-skilled workers grew by 8.7 percentage points over this time period. But as the rest of the panel shows, the association between the change in middle-skilled workers and ICT is strongly negative. In column (4), for example, a one percentage point increase in ICT intensity is associated with a 0.8 percentage point fall in the proportion of middle-skilled workers. The magnitude of the coefficients for the sample that includes all industries is quite similar to those for college educated workers. Panel C shows that technology measures appear to be insignificant for

¹²Including the mineral extraction sectors caused the ICT coefficient to fall from 47 to 45. We also tried including a set of industry dummies in column (4). All the variables became insignificant in this specification. This suggests that it is the same industries that are upgrading across countries.

the least educated workers, illustrating the point that the main role of ICT appears to be in changing demand between the high-skilled and middle-skilled groups¹³. Since the adding up requirement means that the coefficients for the least skilled group can be deduced from the other two skill groups we save space by omitting Panel C in the rest of the Tables.

Overall, Table 3 shows a pattern of results consistent with ICT based polarization. Industries where ICT grew most strongly were those with the largest shifts towards the most skilled and the largest shifts away from the middle skilled, with the least skilled largely unaffected.

4.2. Robustness and Extensions

4.2.1. Initial conditions

Table 4 examines some robustness checks using the results in our preferred specification of column (4) of Table 3 (reproduced in the first column). Since there may be mean reversion we include the level of initial share of skills in 1980 in column (2). This does not qualitatively alter the results, although coefficient on ICT for the middle-skilled does fall somewhat.

4.2.2. Heterogeneity in the coefficients across countries

Wage inequality rose less in Continental Europe than elsewhere, so it is interesting to explore whether technological change induced polarization even there. Columns (3) and (4) of Table 4 restrict the sample to the 8 Continental European countries (Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Spain), and the results are similar to those in the full sample of countries. For example, column

¹³The difference in the importance of ICT for the middle and lowest skill groups implies that high school graduates are not perfect substitutes for college graduates as Card (2009) argues in the US context. The majority of our data is from outside the US, however, where there are relatively fewer high school graduates.

(5) shows that the correlation between ICT and polarization is larger for the US than for the full sample, though column (5) shows that the estimates become imprecise when we control for baseline levels of skill composition. The sample size for most individual countries is rather small, but if we re-estimate the specification of Table 3 column (2) separately country by country we obtain negative coefficients on ICT for all 11 countries for medium skill shares and positive coefficients for 10 countries for the high skill shares (Japan is the single exception)¹⁴.

4.2.3. Instrumental variables

One concern is that measurement error in the right hand side variables, especially ICT, causes attenuation bias¹⁵. To mitigate this concern, we use the industry-level measures of ICT in the US in 1980 as an instrument for ICT upgrading over the whole sample. The intuition behind this instrument is that the dramatic global fall in quality-adjusted ICT prices since 1980 (e.g. Jorgenson, Ho and Stiroh, 2008) will disproportionately benefit those industries that (for exogenous technological reasons) have a greater potential for using ICT inputs. An indicator of this potential is the initial ICT intensity in the technological leader, the US. In the 2SLS estimates of column (7) the coefficient on ICT is roughly twice as large as the OLS coefficients for the college educated group (and significant at the 5 percent level), and a little bigger for the middle-skilled group. Column (8) report estimates the same specification but this time excluding the US itself, and the results are very similar. We use the proportion of routine tasks in the

¹⁴The mean of the 11 country-specific coefficients on ICT is very similar to the pooled results (-112 for the middle-skilled share and 71 for the high-skilled share).

¹⁵Estimates of the ICT coefficient for the two 12-year sub-periods of our data are typically about half of the absolute magnitude of those for the full period. In general, our estimates for shorter time periods are smaller and less precise, consistent with the importance of measurement error in the ICT data. For example, in the specification of column (4) of Panel A in Table 3, the coefficient (standard error) on ICT was 18.30 (10.30) in a pooled 12 year regression. We could not reject the hypothesis that the ICT coefficient was stable over time (p-value=0.35).

industry (in the US in the base year) as an instrument for future ICT growth as these industries were most likely to be affected by falling ICT prices (see Autor and Dorn, 2009). The results of using this instrument are shown in columns (9) and (10). Although the first stages are weaker with this instrument¹⁶, and the 2SLS estimates are not very precise, these columns again suggest that we may be under-estimating the importance of ICT by just using OLS.

4.2.4. Disaggregating the wage bill into wages and hours

The wage bill share of each skill group reflects its hourly wage and hours worked, and those of the other skill groups. We estimated specifications that are identical to those in Table 3, except that they disaggregate the dependent variable into the growth of relative skill prices and quantities. In the first two columns of Table 5 we reproduce the baseline specifications using the log relative wage bill (which can be exactly decomposed) as the dependent variable¹⁷. Columns (1) - (4) confirm what we have already seen using a slightly different functional form: ICT growth is associated with a significant increase in the demand for high-skilled workers relative to middle-skilled workers (first two columns) and with a significant (but smaller) increase for low-skilled workers relative to middle-skilled workers (third and fourth columns).

For the high vs. middle-skill group, ICT growth is significantly associated with increases in relative wages and relative hours (columns (5), (6), (9) and (10)). In comparing the middle vs. low groups, the coefficients are also all correctly signed,

¹⁶The signs of the instruments in the first stage are correct. The F-test is 6.5 in column (9) compared to 10.5 in column (7).

¹⁷Another functional form check was using the growth rate of ICT intensity. For the specification in column (3) of Panel A in Table 3 we replaced $\Delta(C/Q)$ with $\frac{\Delta(C/Q)}{C/Q}$. The coefficient (standard error) on ICT growth was 2.586 (1.020). The marginal effect of a one standard deviation increase (0.581) is 1.50 ($=0.581*2.586$), almost identical to 1.55 ($=0.024*64.6$) in Table 3.

but not significant at conventional levels. Overall this suggests that our results are robust to functional form and the shifting pattern of demand operates both through wages and hours worked¹⁸.

4.3. Trade, R&D and skill upgrading

Having found that technology upgrading is associated with substitution of college-educated workers for middle-skilled workers, we now examine whether changes in trade exhibit similar patterns. The first three columns of Table 6 suggest that more trade openness (measured as the ratio of imports plus exports to value added) is associated with increases in the wage bill share of college educated workers and declines in the share for middle-skilled workers. However, when we control for initial R&D intensity the association between trade and skill upgrading becomes smaller and insignificant. Column (4) repeats the specification of column (3) for the sub-sample where we have R&D data and shows that the trade coefficient is robust. Column (5) includes R&D intensity in a simple specification and shows that the coefficient on trade falls (e.g. from 0.50 to 0.24 in Panel A) and is insignificant, whereas the coefficient on R&D is positive and significant. In column (6) we include the changes in the ICT and non-ICT capital stocks and the coefficient on trade is now very small. The final column drops the insignificant trade variable and shows that ICT and R&D are individually (and jointly) significant. We also used the Feenstra and Hansen (1999) method of constructing an offshoring variable and included it instead of (and alongside) trade in final goods. The offshoring variable had some more explanatory power than final goods trade, but again was driven into insignificance when we conditioned on our two technology measures¹⁹.

¹⁸In examining these results across countries there was some evidence that the adjustment in wages was stronger in the US and the adjustment in hours was stronger in Continental Europe. This is consistent with the idea of great wage flexibility in the US than in Europe.

¹⁹For example, in the same specification of column (6) of Table 6 we replaced the final goods trade variable with the offshoring measure. In the high skilled equation the coefficient (standard

These findings are consistent with most of the literature that finds that technology variables have more explanatory power than trade in these kinds of skill demand equations²⁰. Of course, trade could be influencing skill demand through affecting the incentives to innovate and adopt new technologies, which is why trade ceases to be important after we condition on technology (e.g. Draca, Bloom and Van Reenen, 2011, argue in favor of this trade-induced technical change hypothesis)²¹. Furthermore, there could be many general equilibrium effects of trade that we have not accounted for (these are controlled for by the country time effects).

4.4. Magnitudes

We perform some “back of the envelope” calculations in Table A4 to gauge the magnitude of the effect of technology on the demand for highly skilled workers. Column (1) estimates that ICT accounts for 13.2 percent of the increase in the college share in the whole sample without controls and column (2) reduces this to 8.5 percent with controls. Many authors (e.g. Jorgenson, Ho and Stiroh, 2008) have argued that value added growth has been strongly affected by ICT growth, especially in the later period, so column (2) probably underestimates the effect of ICT. Column (3) reports equivalent calculations for the tradeable sectors. Here,

error) was 4.27(2.82) and in the middle skilled equation the coefficient (standard error) was -11.6(9.87).

²⁰These are simple industry-level correlations and not general equilibrium calculations, so we may be missing out the role of trade through other routes.

²¹We further test whether the association between trade and skill upgrading remains similar when we examine different components of trade separately. Appendix Table A3 suggests that when we examine imports and exports separately, the picture is quite similar. Greater trade is associated with an increase in the college wage bill share until we control for initial R&D intensity, in which case the coefficient on trade falls and becomes insignificant. Results are similar when we analyze separately imports to (or exports from) OECD countries. For non-OECD countries the results are again the same, except for exports to non-OECD countries, which remains positively associated with changes in the college wage-bill share even after we add all the controls, including R&D. However, it should be noted that the change in exports to developing countries is on average very small.

ICT accounts for 16.5 percent of the change and R&D a further 16.1 percent, suggesting that observable technology measures by account for almost a third of the increase in demand for highly skilled workers. If we include controls in column (4) this falls to 23.1 percent. Finally, columns (5) and (6) report results for the IV specification for the whole sample, showing an ICT contribution of ICT of between 22.1 percent and 27.7 percent²².

We also note that while ICT upgrading alone should have led to decreased demand for middle-skilled workers. While we do not see such a decrease overall, Figure 2 shows a slowdown in the growth of demand for middle skilled over time, and a reversal (in other words negative growth) for middle-skilled workers from 1998-2004.

We have no general equilibrium model, so these are only “back of the envelope” calculations to give an idea of magnitudes. Furthermore, measurement error probably means that we are probably underestimating the importance of the variables. Nevertheless, it seems that our measures of technology are important in explaining a significant proportion of the increase in demand for college educated workers at the expense of the middle-skilled.

5. Conclusions

Recent investigations into the changing demand for skills in OECD countries have found some evidence for “polarization” in the labour market in the sense that workers in the middle of the wage and skills distribution appear to have fared more poorly than those at the bottom and the top. One explanation that has been advanced for this is that ICT has complemented non-routine analytic tasks

²²The IV specifications for tradeables show an even larger magnitude. For example in a specification with full controls, R&D and ICT combined account for over half of all the change in the college wage bill share. The first stage for the IV is weak, however, with an F-statistic of 6, these cannot be relied on.

but substituted for routine tasks whilst not affecting non-routine manual tasks (like cleaning, gardening, childcare, etc.). This implies that many middle-skilled groups like bank clerks and paralegals performing routine tasks have suffered a fall in demand. To test this we have estimated industry-level skill share equations distinguishing three education groups and related this to ICT (and R&D) investments in eleven countries over 25 years using newly available data. Our findings are supportive of the ICT-based polarization hypothesis as industries that experienced the fastest growth in ICT also experienced the fastest growth in the demand for the most educated workers and the fastest falls in demand for workers with intermediate levels of education. The magnitudes are nontrivial: technical change (as proxied by ICT and R&D) can account for up to a quarter of the growth of the college wage bill share in the economy as a whole (and more in the tradeable sectors).

Although our method is simple and transparent, there are many extensions that need to be made. First, alternative instrumental variables for ICT would help identify the causal impact of ICT. Second, although we find no direct role for trade variables, there may be other ways in which globalization influences the labour market, for example by causing firms to “defensively innovate” (Acemoglu, 2003). Third, there are alternative explanations for the improved performance of the least skilled group through for example, greater demand from richer skilled workers for the services they provide as market production substitutes for household production (e.g. childcare, eating out in restaurants, domestic work, etc.)²³. These explanations may complement the mechanism that we address here. Finally, we have not used richer occupational data that would focus on the skill content of tasks due to the need to have international comparability across countries. The work of Autor and Dorn (2009) is an important contribution here.

²³See Ngai and Pissarides (2007) and Mazzolari and Ragusa (2008).

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Table 1: Summary Statistics by Country

Panel A: 1980 levels averaged by country							
Country	(1) (High-skilled wage- bill share)	(2) (Medium-skilled wage-bill share)	(3) (Low-skilled wage- bill share)	(4) ln(Value Added)	(5) ((ICT capital) / (Value Added))	(6) ((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))	(7) ((Imports+Exports) / (Value Added))
Austria	8.8	51.6	39.6	8.0	0.012	0.227	1.43
Denmark	5.3	50.5	44.2	7.8	0.029	0.174	2.24
Finland	26.9	28.5	44.6	7.6	0.015	0.195	1.36
France	11.2	49.6	39.2	10.1	0.011	0.158	1.23
Germany	9.4	66.0	24.7	10.3	0.020	0.168	1.31
Italy	5.8	86.9	7.3	9.7	0.021	0.174	0.91
Japan	17.7	49.0	33.2	10.8	0.016	0.230	0.55
Netherlands	21.6	62.1	16.3	8.8	0.012	0.155	3.39
Spain	12.7	9.6	77.7	9.1	0.021	0.265	0.53
UK	9.2	52.7	38.1	9.8	0.019	0.180	1.54
USA	28.7	56.0	15.3	11.6	0.016	0.224	0.54
Mean	14.3	51.1	34.6	9.4	0.018	0.195	0.67

Panel B: Changes from 1980-2004, averaged by country							
Country	Δ (College wage-bill share)	Δ (Medium-skilled wage-bill share)	Δ (Low-skilled wage- bill share)	Δ ln(Value Added)	Δ ((ICT capital) / (Value Added))	Δ ((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))	Δ ((Imports+Exports) / (Value Added))
Austria	5.4	15.5	-20.9	1.2	0.014	0.010	0.87
Denmark	4.1	17.8	-21.9	1.3	0.013	-0.011	1.26
Finland	15.2	12.0	-27.2	1.2	0.022	-0.001	0.36
France	7.7	14.1	-21.8	1.1	0.021	0.066	0.99
Germany	6.3	0.1	-6.4	1.1	0.007	0.023	1.03
Italy	5.3	1.6	-6.9	1.2	0.020	0.051	0.55
Japan	10.8	11.5	-22.3	1.1	0.013	0.035	0.33
Netherlands	13.1	-2.9	-10.1	1.3	0.023	0.041	3.01
Spain	11.9	19.0	-30.9	1.5	0.006	0.056	1.13
UK	16.5	12.6	-29.1	1.3	0.032	-0.031	1.26
USA	13.9	-5.1	-8.8	1.4	0.028	0.032	0.62
Mean	10.0	8.7	-18.8	1.2	0.018	0.025	0.67

Note: The table reports means weighted by 1980 share of each country's employment. All variables are measured for the full sample, except for trade variables, measured only for traded goods.

Table 2: Summary Statistics by Industry

Code Description	1980 levels averaged by industry						Changes from 1980-2004 averaged by industry								Mean weight	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
	High-skilled wage-bill share	Medium-skilled wage-bill share	Low-skilled wage-bill share	ln(Value Added)	((ICT capital) / (Value Added))	((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))	((Imports +Exports) / (Value Added))	Δ (High-skilled wage-bill share)	Δ (Medium-skilled wage-bill share)	Δ (Low-skilled wage-bill share)	Δ ln(Value Added)	Δ ((ICT capital) / (Value Added))	Δ ((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))	Δ ((Imports +Exports) / (Value Added))	Full sample	Traded goods only
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	5.9	39.7	54.4	0.10	0.002	0.246	0.73	5.1	21.8	-26.9	0.56	0.003	0.009	0.25	0.10	0.28
Food products, beverages and tobacco	6.4	47.7	45.9	0.03	0.012	0.341	1.09	8.0	15.8	-23.9	1.00	0.014	0.010	0.29	0.03	0.09
Textiles, textile products, leather and footwear	5.0	45.8	49.2	0.03	0.006	0.168	2.13	8.2	17.3	-25.4	0.16	0.014	0.027	3.79	0.03	0.09
Wood and products of wood and cork	7.8	46.8	45.4	0.01	0.010	0.232	2.30	9.2	16.4	-25.5	0.93	0.010	0.020	0.02	0.01	0.03
Pulp, paper, paper products, printing and publishing	10.8	51.4	37.8	0.02	0.021	0.242	0.84	11.0	10.9	-21.8	1.17	0.030	0.047	0.02	0.02	0.07
Chemicals and chemical products	13.3	49.2	37.4	0.01	0.016	0.370	2.51	13.1	9.2	-22.2	1.22	0.028	0.070	1.18	0.01	0.04
Rubber and plastics products	9.0	49.1	41.9	0.01	0.010	0.255	0.42	9.8	14.0	-23.8	1.28	0.017	0.022	0.04	0.01	0.02
Other non-metallic mineral products	8.6	47.4	44.0	0.01	0.014	0.270	0.57	9.5	15.3	-24.9	0.90	0.011	0.052	0.13	0.01	0.03
Basic metals and fabricated metal products	8.7	50.1	41.2	0.03	0.010	0.267	1.01	9.1	14.3	-23.4	0.97	0.013	0.009	0.18	0.03	0.10
Machinery, not elsewhere classified	9.8	55.7	34.5	0.03	0.017	0.209	1.59	12.0	8.5	-20.5	1.05	0.023	-0.003	0.98	0.03	0.08
Electrical and optical equipment	12.6	54.7	32.7	0.03	0.024	0.176	3.78	14.6	6.2	-20.8	1.23	0.038	0.052	5.42	0.03	0.08
Transport equipment	10.5	54.9	34.5	0.02	0.010	0.167	1.35	12.3	8.3	-20.6	1.11	0.020	0.080	0.94	0.02	0.06
Manufacturing not elsewhere classified; recycling	7.0	47.7	45.3	0.01	0.013	0.213	3.21	8.2	15.6	-23.8	1.05	0.010	0.004	0.41	0.01	0.04
Sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; retail sale of fuel	6.5	59.6	33.9	0.02	0.016	0.195		8.5	9.7	-18.1	1.3	0.0	0.0		0.02	
Wholesale trade and commission trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	10.2	57.1	32.6	0.05	0.032	0.247		10.2	7.7	-17.8	1.42	0.030	0.055		0.05	
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles; repair of household goods	8.3	58.1	33.6	0.09	0.011	0.084		8.7	9.1	-17.8	1.29	0.016	0.079		0.09	
Transport and storage	6.1	53.7	40.2	0.04	0.020	0.200		7.0	13.5	-20.5	1.36	0.030	0.072		0.04	
Post and telecommunications	8.1	60.5	31.4	0.02	0.143	0.238		17.2	1.9	-19.2	1.60	0.088	0.119		0.02	
Real estate activities	26.8	52.4	20.8	0.01	0.014	0.891		12.7	-1.1	-11.6	1.81	0.014	-0.008		0.01	
Renting of machinery and equipment and other business activities	29.3	51.2	19.5	0.05	0.051	0.180		18.1	-7.1	-11.0	2.16	0.020	-0.027		0.05	
Construction	7.3	52.1	40.6	0.08	0.005	0.180		4.0	16.2	-20.2	1.19	0.009	0.013		0.08	
Hotels and restaurants	6.2	54.4	39.4	0.04	0.013	0.136		7.8	12.5	-20.3	1.59	0.000	0.041		0.04	
Financial intermediation	18.3	65.0	16.6	0.03	0.051	0.297		19.6	-8.2	-11.3	1.57	0.112	0.009		0.03	
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	20.8	58.4	20.7	0.07	0.017	0.171		13.1	0.7	-13.7	1.30	0.019	-0.022		0.07	
Education	51.7	38.2	10.1	0.06	0.013	0.078		11.6	-5.4	-6.1	1.47	0.004	-0.010		0.06	
Health and social work	27.0	53.1	19.8	0.07	0.011	0.119		11.5	0.8	-12.2	1.70	0.003	-0.008		0.07	
Other community, social and personal services	18.4	50.1	31.5	0.04	0.038	0.215		11.2	7.1	-18.3	1.65	0.003	0.029		0.04	

Note: Industry values are simple unweighted averages across all countries. Regressions in subsequent tables use the maximum level of disaggregation available in each country (method described in Data Appendix). Mean weight is the industry's share of employment in each country's total employment

Table 3: Changes in Wage Bill Shares: 1980-2004

Panel A: Dependent variable: High-Skilled Wage Bill Share								
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Δ ((ICT capital) / (Value Added))		72.29 (18.28)	64.56 (17.31)	46.92 (14.94)		163.94 (45.48)	139.6 (42.74)	128.71 (32.19)
$\Delta \ln(\text{Value Added})$			5.42 (1.24)	4.76 (0.95)			3.26 (2.25)	3.41 (1.07)
Δ ((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))			-7.64 (4.92)	-6.45 (3.51)			0.31 (5.59)	-0.47 (2.45)
Intercept	10.02 (0.57)	8.69 (0.63)	2.22 (1.67)		9.12 (0.86)	6.42 (1.02)	4.04 (2.19)	
Country fixed effects				X				X
Sample: All industries	X	X	X	X				
Sample: Traded industries					X	X	X	X
Obs.	208	208	208	208	84	84	84	84
R-squared		0.09	0.19	0.45		0.19	0.22	0.81
Panel B: Dependent variable: Medium-skilled Wage Bill Share								
Δ ((ICT capital) / (Value Added))		-100.78 (30.21)	-77.76 (25.44)	-64.52 (20.24)		-163.98 (115.77)	-41.59 (84.73)	-288.01 (83.94)
$\Delta \ln(\text{Value Added})$			-13.8 (2.69)	-15.33 (2.23)			-15.64 (4.27)	-7.96 (3.14)
Δ ((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))			9.76 (11.88)	18.01 (10.25)			-10.79 (14.08)	1.57 (10.98)
Intercept	8.73 (1.29)	10.59 (1.49)	27.24 (3.73)		15.5 (1.90)	18.20 (2.95)	29.75 (4.67)	
Country fixed effects				X				X
Sample: All industries	X	X	X	X				
Sample: Traded industries					X	X	X	X
Obs.	208	208	208	208	84	84	84	84
R-squared		0.05	0.23	0.58		0.05	0.25	0.74
Panel C: Dependent variable: Low-skilled Wage Bill Share								
Δ ((ICT capital) / (Value Added))		28.55 (27.34)	13.21 (25.66)	17.71 (16.41)		0.50 (113.51)	-97.91 (100.71)	159.65 (79.30)
$\Delta \ln(\text{Value Added})$			8.43 (2.40)	10.62 (1.95)			12.45 (4.24)	4.61 (3.30)
Δ ((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))			-2.21 (9.63)	-11.68 (9.07)			10.32 (11.91)	-1.28 (11.73)
Intercept	-18.74 (1.12)	-19.26 (1.31)	-29.5 (3.27)		-24.61 (1.68)	-24.62 (2.55)	-33.84 (3.95)	
Country fixed effects				X				X
Sample: All industries	X	X	X	X				
Sample: Traded industries					X	X	X	X
Obs.	208	208	208	208	84	84	84	84
R-squared		0.00	0.10	0.65		0.00	0.16	0.70

Note: Coefficients estimated by OLS with robust standard errors in parentheses. Regressions in columns (1)-(4) weighted by each industry's 1980 share of each country's employment, and regressions in columns (5)-(8) weighted by each industry's 1980 share of each country's employment in traded industries.

Table 4: Changes in Wage Bill Shares: 1980-2004 - Robustness checks

Panel A: Dependent variable: High-Skilled Wage Bill Share										
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	2SLS	2SLS	2SLS	2SLS
Δ ((ICT capital) / (Value Added))	46.92 (14.94)	42.09 (14.66)	50.98 (16.64)	48.79 (16.20)	132.84 (52.59)	66.1 (58.15)	121.63 (53.43)	103.16 (48.82)	137.99 (119.44)	65.31 (104.60)
Δ ln(Value Added)	4.76 (0.95)	2.93 (1.39)	5.79 (1.31)	4.4 (1.93)	0.26 (2.94)	-1.97 (3.79)	4.24 (1.07)	4.85 (1.10)	4.12 (1.30)	5.09 (1.20)
Δ ((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))	-6.45 (3.51)	-5.06 (3.99)	-9.25 (4.56)	-8.19 (5.13)	15.41 (12.99)	2.56 (12.94)	-8.47 (4.02)	-9.85 (4.33)	-8.91 (5.01)	-8.54 (5.16)
1980 High-skilled wage bill share		0.06 (0.06)		0.04 (0.07)		0.34 (0.19)				
1980 Medium-skilled wage bill share		0.12 (0.05)		0.08 (0.07)		0.6 (0.27)				
Country fixed effects	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Sample	All	All	Continental Europe	Continental Europe	USA	USA	All	All except USA	All	All except USA
Obs.	208	208	143	143	27	27	208	181	208	181
R-squared	0.45	0.47	0.44	0.45	0.21	0.43	0.36	0.38	0.32	0.46
F-stat for excluded instrument in the first stage							10.5	9.6	6.5	8.3
Panel B: Dependent variable: Medium-Skilled Wage Bill Share										
	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	OLS	2SLS	2SLS	2SLS	2SLS
Δ ((ICT capital) / (Value Added))	-64.52 (20.24)	-41.72 (13.35)	-62.13 (18.79)	-51.41 (14.28)	-160.15 (44.52)	-80.06 (60.97)	-73.81 (56.75)	-46.74 (49.04)	-42.8 (235.73)	22.21 (224.74)
Δ ln(Value Added)	-15.33 (2.23)	-2.73 (1.99)	-16.33 (3.13)	-4.36 (2.83)	-7.57 (3.32)	0.45 (3.64)	-15.26 (2.30)	-16.24 (2.47)	-15.48 (2.27)	-16.67 (2.34)
Δ ((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))	18.01 (10.25)	3.89 (6.61)	21.33 (13.38)	7.82 (9.27)	-16.58 (17.77)	-7.9 (13.85)	18.26 (10.59)	20.02 (11.41)	17.42 (11.34)	17.62 (12.81)
1980 High-skilled wage bill share		-0.55 (0.08)		-0.48 (0.08)		-0.72 (0.19)				
1980 Medium-skilled wage bill share		-0.64 (0.07)		-0.57 (0.09)		-0.95 (0.28)				
Country fixed effects	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Sample	All	All	Continental Europe	Continental Europe	USA	USA	All	All except USA	All	All except USA
Obs.	208	208	143	143	27	27	208	181	208	181
R-squared	0.58	0.79	0.59	0.77	0.36	0.68	0.58	0.78	0.58	0.52
F-stat for excluded instrument in the first stage							10.5	9.6	6.5	8.3

Note: Coefficients estimated by OLS with robust standard errors in parentheses. Regressions weighted by the industry's 1980 share of each country's employment. In columns (7) and (8) we instrument the 25-year difference in ICT Capital/Value Added by the 1980 levels of ICT capital/Value Added in the USA. In columns (9) and (10) we instrument the 25-year difference in ICT Capital/Value Added by the 1980 levels of routine task input using the 1991 Directory of Occupational Titles (constructed as in Autor, Levy and Murnane (2003)).

Table 5: Decomposing Changes in Relative Wage Bills into Wages and Hours

Dependent variable	Ln(Relative Wage Bill)				Ln(Relative Wages)				Ln(Relative Hours Worked)			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
	(High- skilled/Medium- skilled)	(High- skilled/Low- skilled)	(Medium- skilled/Low- skilled)	(High- skilled/Low- skilled)	(High- skilled/Medium- skilled)	(High- skilled/Low- skilled)	(Medium- skilled/Low- skilled)	(High- skilled/Medium- skilled)	(High- skilled/Low- skilled)	(Medium- skilled/Low- skilled)	(High- skilled/Medium- skilled)	(High- skilled/Low- skilled)
Δ ((ICT capital) / (Value Added))	4.72 (1.36)	4.00 (1.26)	-2.47 (1.07)	-2.04 (0.99)	1.28 (0.48)	0.93 (0.43)	-0.62 (0.60)	-0.77 (0.68)	3.44 (1.33)	3.07 (1.26)	-1.85 (1.14)	-1.28 (1.12)
Δ ln(Value Added)		0.18 (0.09)		-0.28 (0.08)		0.10 (0.06)		0.04 (0.07)		0.08 (0.09)		-0.32 (0.10)
Δ ((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))		0.98 (0.51)		0.14 (0.38)		0.41 (0.21)		0.18 (0.17)		0.57 (0.51)		-0.03 (0.34)
Country fixed effects	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sample: All industries	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Obs.	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208	208
R-squared	0.32	0.38	0.72	0.75	0.28	0.33	0.43	0.44	0.32	0.33	0.52	0.56

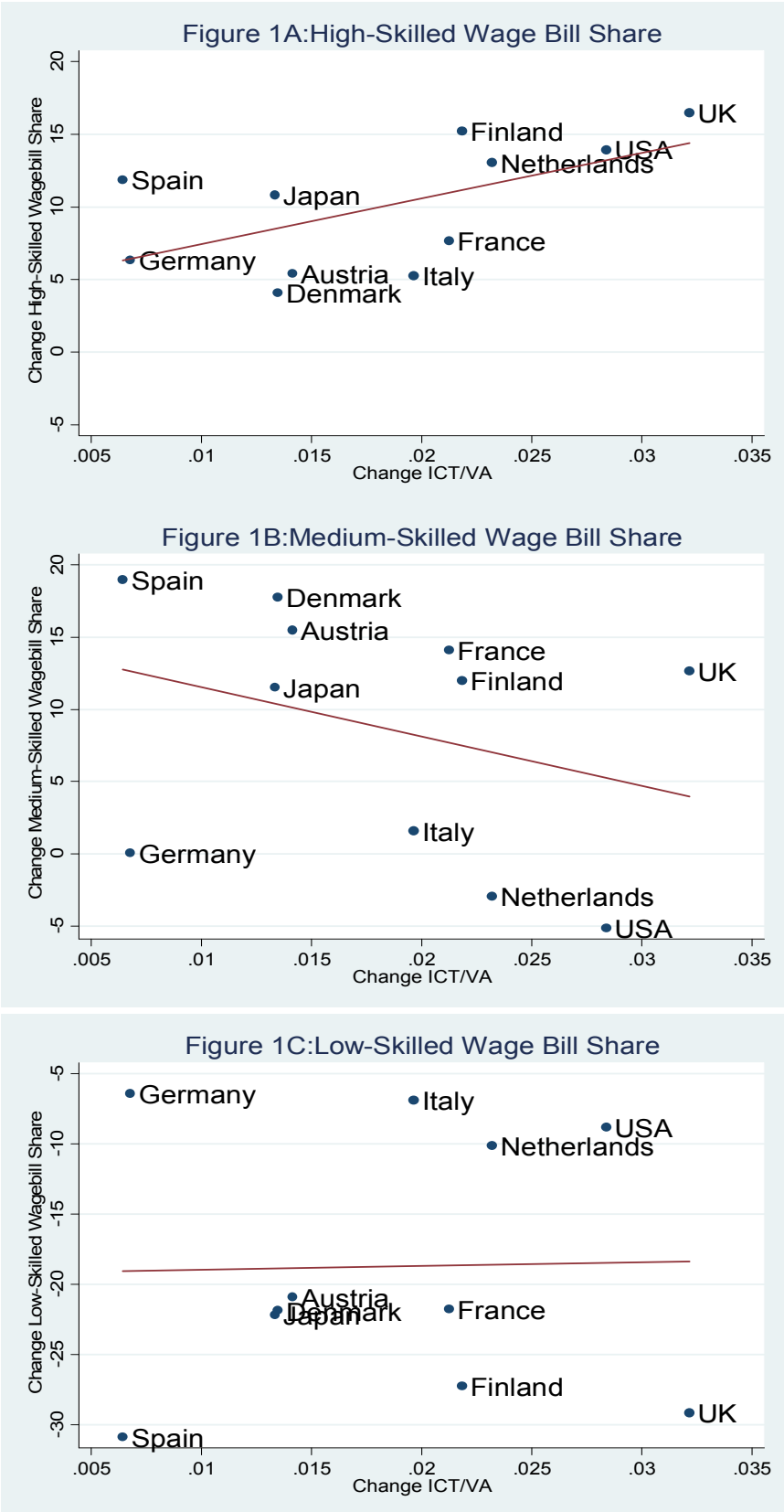
Note: Dependent variable in columns (1)-(4) is the 1980-2004 change in the Ln(relative wage bill), e.g. in column (1) this is $\ln(\text{wage bill of highly skilled workers}) - \ln(\text{wage bill of medium skilled workers})$. The dependent variable in columns (5)-(8) is the change in Ln(relative hourly wage), e.g. in column (5) it is the $\ln(\text{hourly wage of highly skilled}) - \ln(\text{hourly wage of medium skilled})$. In columns (9)-(12) the dependent variable is the change in Ln(relative hours worked), e.g. in column (9) this is $\ln(\text{annual hours of highly skilled}) - \ln(\text{annual hours of medium skilled})$. Coefficients estimated by OLS with robust standard errors in parentheses. Regressions weighted by the industry's 1980 share of each country's employment.

Table 6: Trade and Technology

Panel A: Dependent variable: High-Skilled Wage Bill Share							
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Δ ((Imports+ Exports) / (Value Added))	0.59 (0.46)	0.71 (0.25)	0.59 (0.15)	0.50 (0.19)	0.24 (0.30)	0.11 (0.25)	
Δ ((ICT capital) / (Value Added))			107.61 (31.70)	94.25 (34.07)		73.59 (31.41)	75.49 (31.10)
Δ ln(Value Added)			4.09 (1.09)	3.84 (1.26)	4.03 (1.38)	2.57 (1.52)	2.36 (1.35)
Δ ((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))			-0.63 (2.41)	0.16 (3.41)		0.97 (3.12)	1.03 (3.02)
1980 (Research and Development Expenditure/ Value Added)					34.18 (18.23)	28.04 (17.59)	30.08 (14.91)
Intercept	8.60 (0.80)						
Country fixed effects		X	X	X	X	X	X
Sample: Traded goods (all countries)	X	X	X				
Sample: Traded goods (except Austria and Spain)				X	X	X	X
Obs.	84	84	84	65	65	65	65
R-squared	0.02	0.67	0.82	0.80	0.80	0.82	0.82
Panel B: Dependent variable: Medium-Skilled Wage Bill Share							
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Δ ((Imports+ Exports) / (Value Added))	-1.18 (0.91)	-1.26 (0.75)	-0.95 (0.57)	-0.95 (0.52)	-0.77 (0.63)	-0.49 (0.52)	
Δ ((ICT capital) / (Value Added))			-253.80 (83.12)	-294.15 (69.28)		-269.46 (69.36)	-277.86 (69.49)
Δ ln(Value Added)			-9.07 (3.42)	-7.07 (2.92)	-9.34 (3.18)	-5.55 (3.18)	-4.61 (2.64)
Δ ((Non ICT capital) / (Value Added))			1.84 (10.75)	24.10 (10.03)		23.14 (10.59)	22.86 (10.62)
1980 (Research and Development Expenditure/ Value Added)					-60.72 (25.89)	-33.51 (19.24)	-42.55 (17.22)
Intercept	16.52 (2.21)						
Country fixed effects		X	X	X	X	X	X
Sample: Traded goods (all countries)	X	X	X				
Sample: Traded goods (except Austria and Spain)				X	X	X	X
Obs.	84	84	84	65	65	65	65
R-squared	0.02	0.55	0.75	0.81	0.73	0.82	0.81

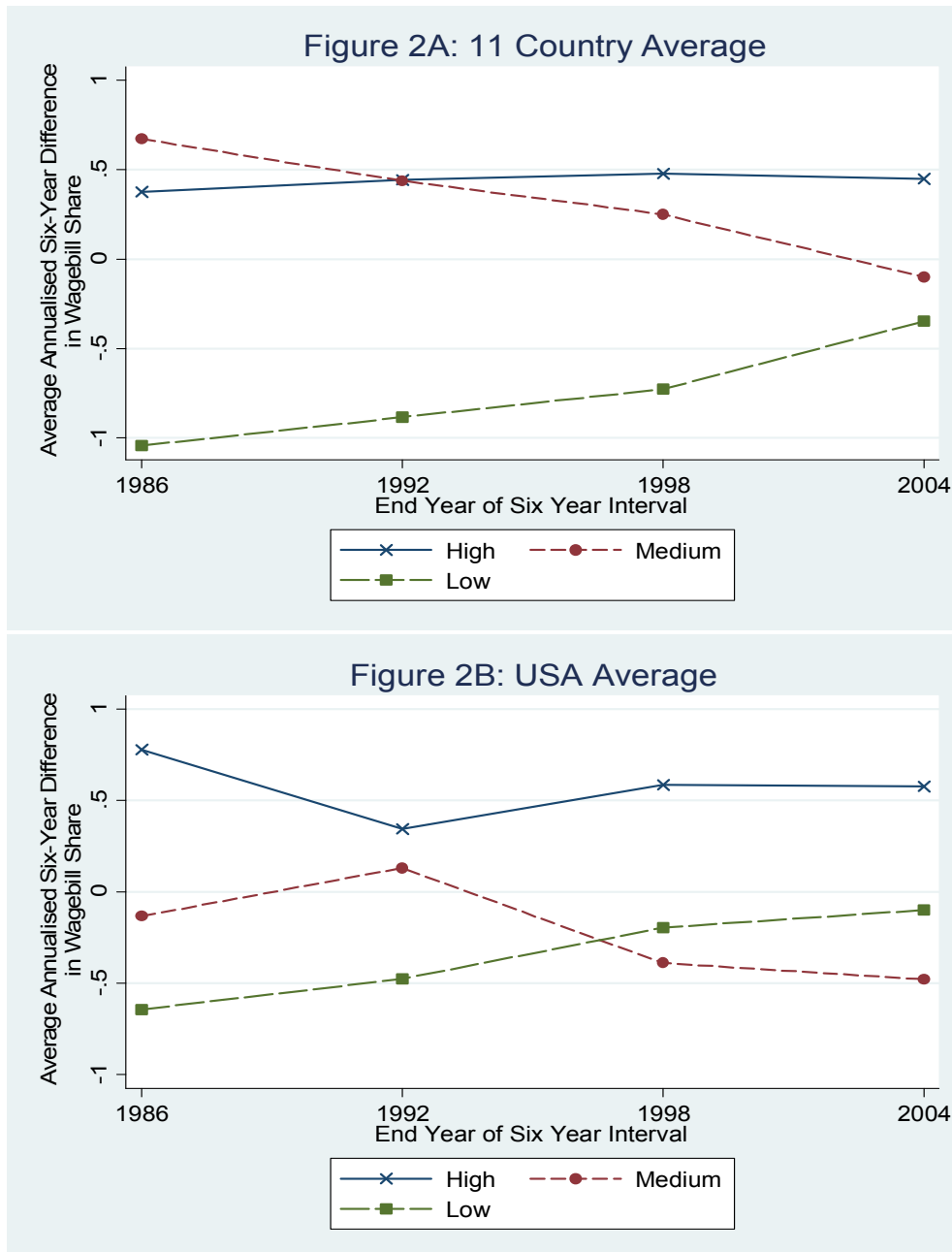
Note: Coefficients estimated by OLS with robust standard errors in parentheses. Regressions weighted by the industry's 1980 share of each country's employment, for traded goods. The OECD ANBERD dataset does not have R&D data for Austria and Spain, which are dropped from the sample (columns (4)-(7)).

Figure 1: Cross Country Variation in Growth of High, Medium and Low-skilled Wage Bill Shares and ICT Intensity, 1980-2004



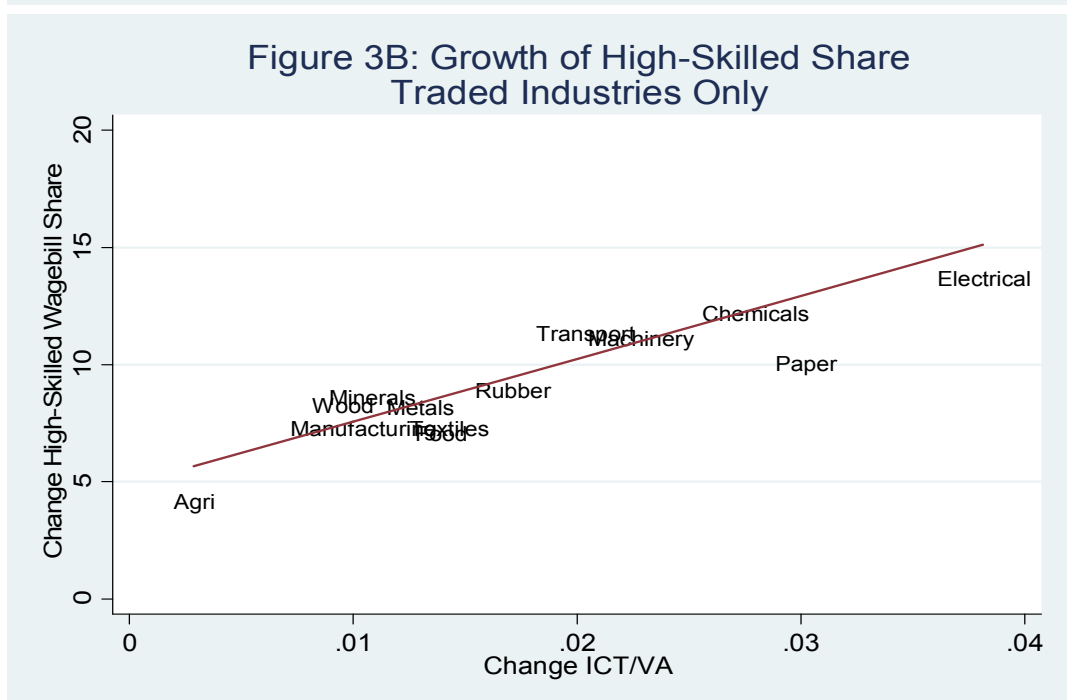
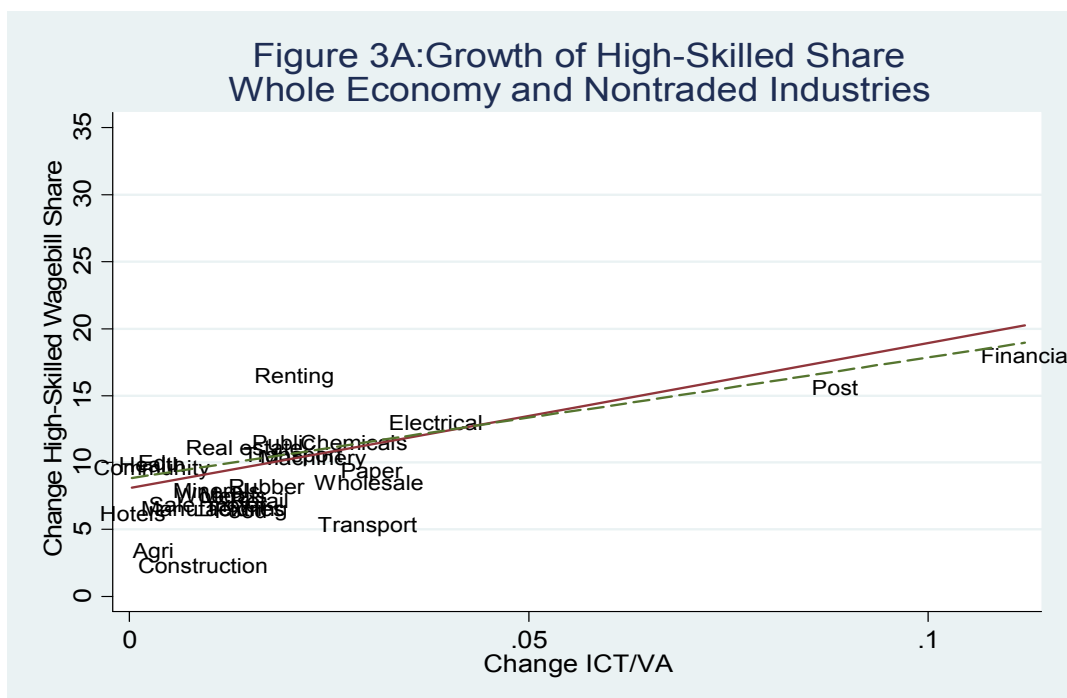
Note: Figure 1 plots the growth of high, medium and low-skilled college wage bill shares against the growth of ICT intensity for 11 OECD countries (see Table 1). Lines show regressions of the growth of each wage bill share against growth of ICT intensity.

Figure 2: Average Annual Percentage Point Changes in High, Medium and Low-Skilled Wage Bill Shares over Six-Year Intervals from 1980-2004 (Eleven Country Average and US)



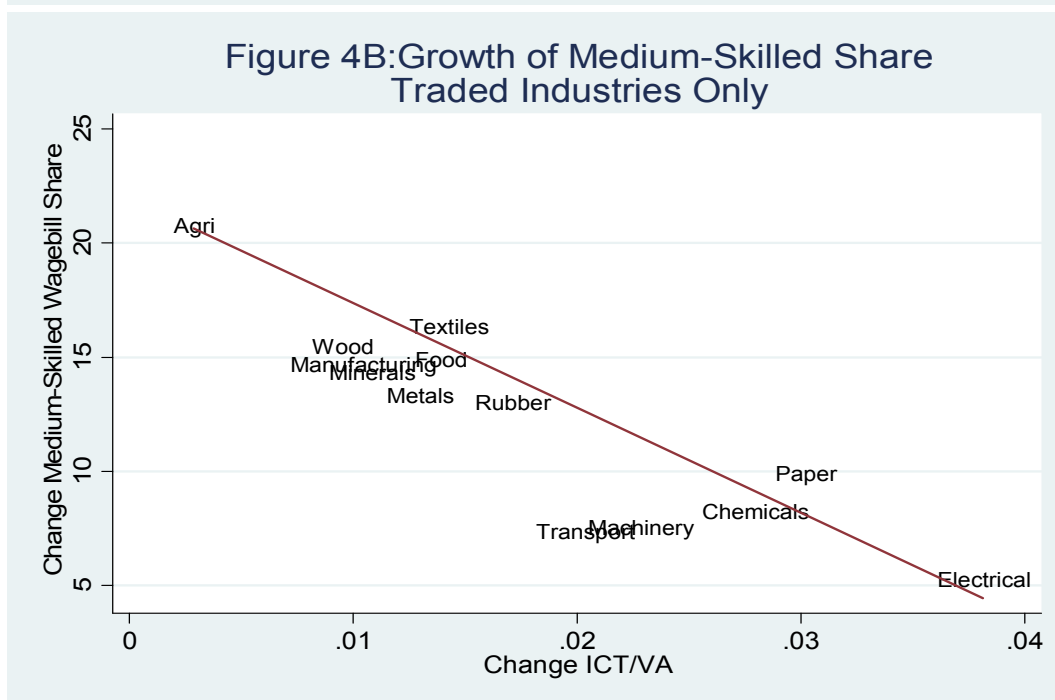
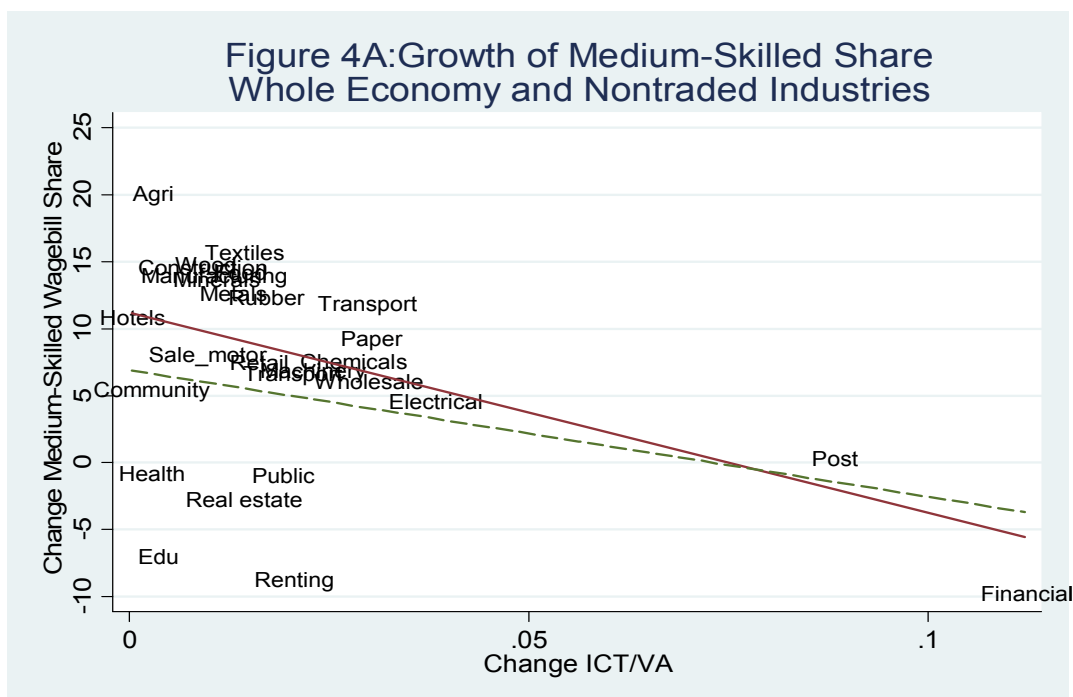
Note: Figure 2 shows annualised six-year average growth rates of high, medium and low-skilled wage bill shares from 1980-2004, weighted by employment share in the starting year of the six-year interval (e.g. The 1980-1986 annualised difference is weighted by each industry's share in the 1980 employment of the country).

Figure 3: Cross-Industry Variation in Growth of High-Skilled Wage-Bill Share and ICT Intensity, 1980-2004 (11 Country Means)



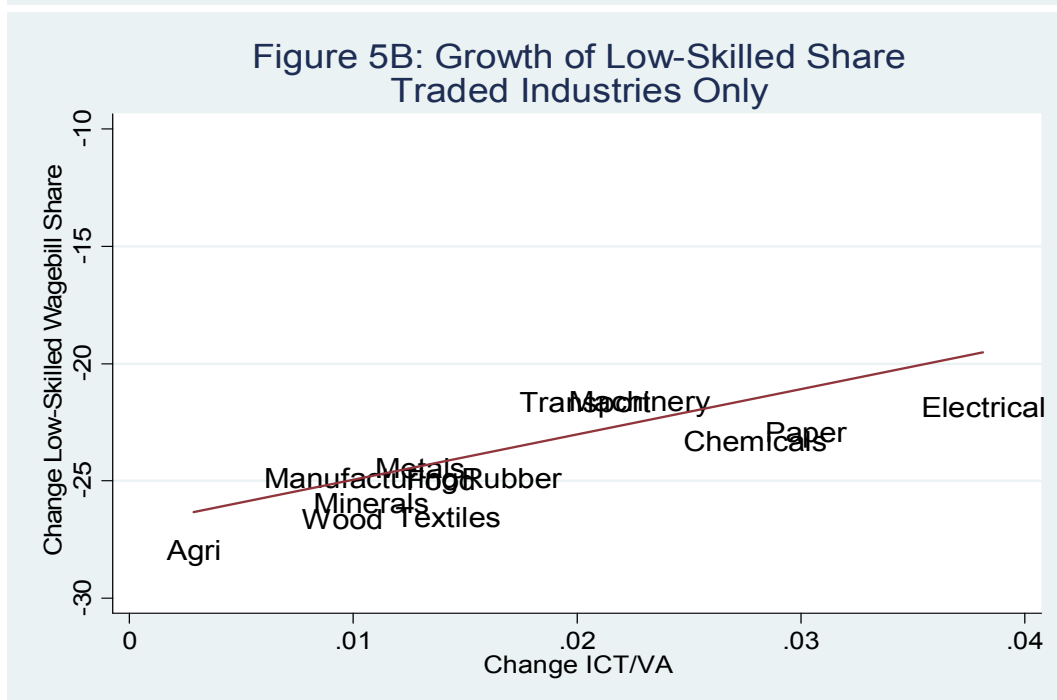
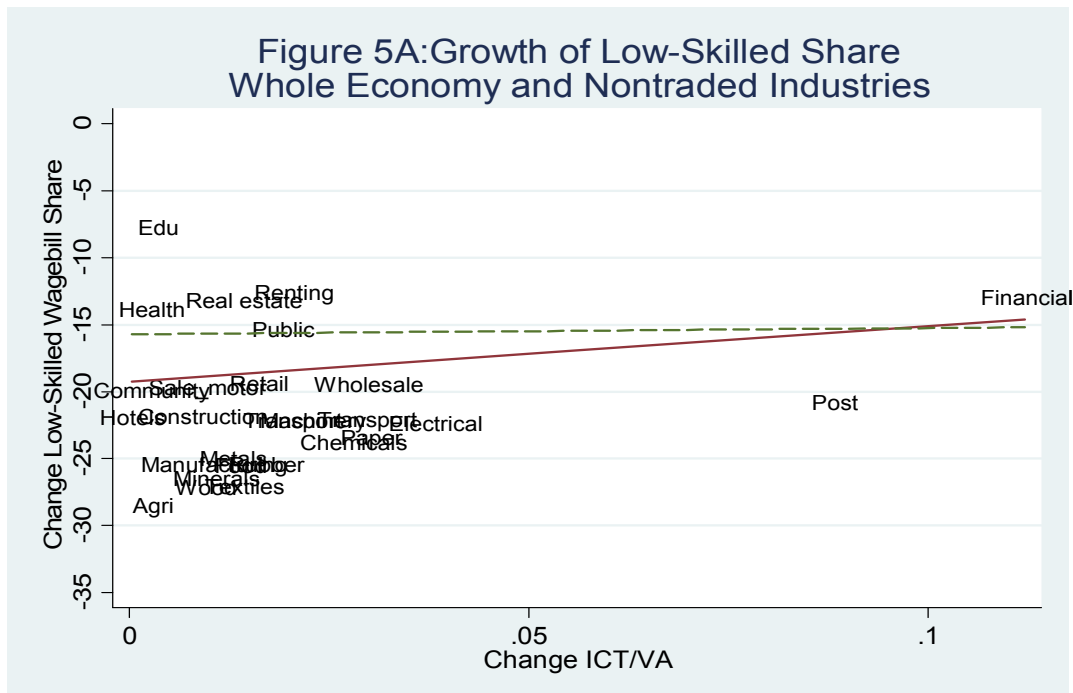
Note: Figure 3A plots the growth from 1980-2004 of high-skilled wage bill shares against the growth of ICT intensity (ICT/VA), by industry, averaged across countries. Lines show fitted values from regressions weighted by the cross-country average of each industry's share in 1980 employment (solid line for entire economy, dashed line for non-traded industries only). Figure 3B restricts the sample to traded industries.

Figure 4: Cross-Industry Variation in Growth of Medium-Skilled Wage-Bill Share and ICT Intensity, 1980-2004 (11 Country Means)



Note: Figure 4A plots the growth from 1980-2004 of medium-skilled wage bill shares against the growth of ICT intensity (ICT/VA), by industry, averaged across countries. Lines show fitted values from regressions weighted by the cross-country average of each industry's share in 1980 employment (solid line for entire economy, dashed line for non-traded industries only). Figure 4B restricts the sample to traded industries.

Figure 5: Cross-Industry Variation in Growth of Low-Skilled Wage-Bill Share and ICT Intensity, 1980-2004 (11 Country Means)



Note: Figure 5A plots the growth from 1980-2004 of low-skilled wage bill shares against the growth of ICT intensity (ICT/VA), by industry, averaged across countries. Lines show fitted values from regressions weighted by the cross-country average of each industry's share in 1980 employment (solid line for entire economy, dashed line for non-traded industries only). Figure 5B restricts the sample to traded industries.