
DOCUMENT
DE TRAVAIL
N° 271

**PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH AND LEVELS
IN FRANCE, JAPAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
THE UNITED STATES
IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

Gilbert Cette, Yusuf Kocoglu, and Jacques Mairesse

January 2010



**PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH AND LEVELS
IN FRANCE, JAPAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
THE UNITED STATES
IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

Gilbert Cette, Yusuf Kocoglu, and Jacques Mairesse

January 2010

Les Documents de travail reflètent les idées personnelles de leurs auteurs et n'expriment pas nécessairement la position de la Banque de France. Ce document est disponible sur le site internet de la Banque de France « www.banque-france.fr ».

Working Papers reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily express the views of the Banque de France. This document is available on the Banque de France Website “www.banque-france.fr”.

**Productivity Growth and Levels
in France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States
in the Twentieth Century**

by Gilbert Cette,* Yusuf Kocoglu, and Jacques Mairesse*****

January 2010

- *: Banque de France and Université de la Méditerranée (DEFI)
- ** : Léad, Université du Sud Toulon-Var and Centre d'études de l'emploi (CEE)
- ***: CREST (ENSAE), UNU-MERIT (Maastricht University) and NBER.

Abstract

This study compares labor and total factor productivity (TFP) in France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States in the very long (since 1890) and medium (since 1980) runs. During the past century, the United States has overtaken the United Kingdom and become the leading world economy. During the past 25 years, the four countries have also experienced contrasting advances in productivity, in particular as a result of unequal investment in information and communication technology (ICT).

The past 120 years have been characterized by: (i) rapid economic growth and large productivity gains in all four countries; (ii) a long decline in productivity in the United Kingdom relative to the United States, and to a lesser extent also relative to France and Japan, a relative decline that was interrupted by the second world war (WW2); (iii) the remarkable catching-up to the United States by France and Japan after WW2, interrupted in the case of Japan during the 1990s. Capital deepening (at least to the extent this can be measured) accounts for a large share of the variations in performance; increasingly during the past 25 years, this has meant ICT capital deepening. However, the capital contribution to growth varies considerably over time and across the four countries, and it is always less important, except in Japan, than the contribution of the various other factors underlying TFP growth, such as, among others, labor skills, technical and organizational changes and knowledge spillovers.

Most recently (in 2006), before the current financial world crisis, hourly labor productivity levels were slightly higher in France than in the United States, and noticeably lower in the United Kingdom (by roughly 10%) and even lower in Japan (30%), while TFP levels are very close in France, the United Kingdom and the United States, but much lower (40%) in Japan.

JEL Classification: O47, O57, E22, J24, N10.

Keywords: Productivity, growth accounting, macro-economic history.

Résumé

L'originalité de notre étude est de fournir une analyse comparée de comptabilité de la croissance économique et de la productivité pour la France, le Japon, les Etats-Unis et le Royaume-Uni à la fois sur la très longue période, depuis 1890, et de façon plus précise sur les vingt cinq dernières années. Sur cette longue période séculaire, les Etats-Unis deviennent la première puissance mondiale à la place du Royaume-Uni. Et sur le dernier quart de siècle, la productivité connaît des évolutions contrastées dans les quatre pays, en relation notamment avec la diffusion inégale des technologies de l'information et de la communication (TIC).

La longue période analysée se caractérise par : (i) une forte croissance du PIB et de la productivité dans les quatre pays ; (ii) le déclin du niveau de la productivité du Royaume-Uni relativement à celui des Etats-Unis et, dans une moindre mesure, de la France et du Japon ; (iii) le rattrapage remarquable des niveaux de productivité des Etats-Unis par la France et le Japon après la seconde Guerre Mondiale. L'intensification du capital contribue fortement à ces évolutions, avec un rôle croissant des TIC sur le dernier quart de siècle. La contribution de l'intensification du capital aux gains de productivité varie beaucoup moins dans les quatre pays sur la période, mais elle demeure généralement moins importante, sauf au Japon, que celle de la productivité globale des facteurs. Cette dernière correspond aux effets de nombreux facteurs non mesurés comme la qualification de la main d'oeuvre, les changements techniques et organisationnels et les innovations.

Il ressort de l'analyse que les processus de rattrapage des niveaux de productivité les plus élevés varient fortement selon les pays et les périodes. Les positions relatives des différents pays peuvent se modifier rapidement sur certaines périodes courtes, ou au contraire demeurer durablement stabilisées, ces évolutions paraissant en partie liées aux situations institutionnelles des pays.

Codes JEL : O47, O57, E22, J24, N10.

Mots clés : Productivité, croissance, capital, TIC, PGF

1. INTRODUCTION

Productivity is a key determinant of the wealth of nations. Almost all theoretical and empirical studies that set out to explain the extremely large economic growth and living standard inequalities between countries focus on the differences in productivity levels and growth rates. These studies are numerous and our study, like most others, is based on the traditional “growth accounting” framework (outlined in Box 1). Its contribution is in taking a fresh look at the productivity macroeconomic evidence for France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States in the very long run (since 1890) and in the more recent years (since 1980), thus covering a century during which the United States has replaced the United Kingdom as the leading world economic power, and focusing on the past 25 years during which the development of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) has contributed very significantly, albeit unevenly, to productivity growth.

We have tried in this exercise to make the best use of the estimates of aggregate historical data series going back in all four countries to the end of the 19th century for output (GDP), employment, working time and investment in physical capital (see Box 2 on Data Sources). As regards the past 25 years, we relied as much as possible on national accounts data. Many of the estimates on which our comparison is based are subject to a great deal of uncertainty and inaccuracy, not only for the most distant periods but also to a significant extent for the more recent ones. We may nevertheless hopefully consider that the orders of magnitude of these estimates, and the ensuing large differentials in productivity levels and growth rates, are fairly reliable and meaningful. One important reason to be confident is the long tradition of statistics gathering in the four countries. Another is that our comparison is limited to the economies as a whole (and the fact that all four countries had reasonably stable geographic frontiers over our study period). Moreover, given the difficulties of measuring physical capital, as well as unknown differences in measurement methods, we re-estimated capital stocks and services and their contributions to growth for the four countries on the basis of the available investment series, using constant and equal capital stock depreciation rates and shares of services in GDP (see Box 2). Similarly, we

chose to use the same hedonic price indices (relative to GDP price indices) for computer hardware, software and communication equipment in all four countries, relying on those for the United States, which are arguably those with the largest corrections for improved quality.

In short, we examine productivity growth for the four countries, over the chosen periods and sub-periods, and using three notions of productivity: labor productivity per employee and per hour, and total factor productivity (TFP), measured as the productivity residual accounting for changes in labor and physical capital input. In Section 2, we compare the long-run trends, and then in Section 3, we focus on the evolution during the past 25 years and on the major role played by the diffusion of ICT during this period.

2. COMPARING LONG RUN PRODUCTIVITY TRENDS

In Section 2.1, we first look at the average long run labor productivity and TFP trends over the entire period: 1890-2006 and comment on the 1890 and 2006 corresponding productivity levels. In Section 2.2, we compare these trends and levels for the five following sub-periods: from 1890 to 1913, just before WW1, from 1913 to 1950 (i.e. including the years of the 1929 great depression and those of economic reconstruction and recovery after WW2, in order to smooth out the most significant effects of the conflict on production capacities and economic structures); from 1950 to 1973, just before the first oil shock; from 1973 to 1980, the period between the first and second oil shocks; and from 1980 to 2006, the period we will consider in more detail in Section 3. In Section 2.2, we also carefully compare our productivity estimates to those of several other studies.

2.1. ...over the entire period

From 1890 to 2006, the overall growth of labor productivity was remarkable in all four countries. The levels of productivity per employee and per hour increased by a factor of respectively 10 and 20 in France, 25 and 40 in Japan, 5 and 9 in the United Kingdom

and 7 and 12 in the United States (see Table 1). The large differentials between the growth rates of employee and hourly productivity reflect the huge decline in average annual working time: by roughly 50% in France (sliding from 3,110 hours in 1890 to 1,540 hours in 2006), by 45% in the United Kingdom (from 2,990 to 1,670 hours), 40% in the United States (from 2,850 to 1,710) and 35% in Japan (from 2,734 to 1,784). Over these (nearly) 120 years, Japan experienced the highest average annual growth: 2.8% per employee and 3.2% per hour, and the United Kingdom the lowest: 1.4% per employee and 1.9% per hour, while France and the United States were in an intermediate position, with France (2.1% and 2.7%) above the United States (1.8% and 2.2%).

In terms of productivity levels, few studies are available on a long period to allow some comparison with our results. Concerning productivity per hour, relative to the United States level, results from Maddison (2007) seem, for Japan and the United Kingdom, very close to ours (see Table 1 and Graphs 1 and 2 for our results, and Appendix Table 1 for the results from Maddison, 2007).¹

In 1890, the level of labor productivity in the United States, whether per employee or per hour, was roughly four to five times higher than in Japan, 50% higher than in France, but 25% lower than in the United Kingdom.² At the time, Japan and France had a much larger proportion of their labor force working in agriculture, as compared with the other two countries. It was still the case in 1970 (see Appendix Table 2). In 2006, the situation is drastically different. The Japanese productivity level, though still the lowest, is about two thirds that of the United States, and the French productivity level is close to that of the

¹ Although Maddison (2007) does not give a level comparison for TFP, he provides estimates of capital stock per capita which seem roughly consistent with ours (see Table 6.4, page 305). We can thus expect that our estimates of TFP levels of the United Kingdom and Japan relative to the United States are also consistent with his estimates for these countries.

² The relative productivity levels for France, Japan and the United Kingdom found in this study differ somewhat from those mentioned in Cette (2004, 2007). These results do not alter the commented stylised facts. The causes of these differences are two-fold. First, the data sources are different: those used in the present study are detailed in Box 1 while in Cette (2004, 2007) they are Maddison (1994, 2001 and 2003). Second, in order to ensure the continuity of historical series, we chose to adjust them on the basis of growth rates (as indicated in Box 1).

United States, while the British productivity level is noticeably lower (by about 10%) than in the United States.³

Growth in total factor productivity (TFP) accounts for a major share of hourly labor productivity growth over the past 120 years in the four countries: roughly 50% to 60% in France, Japan and in the United Kingdom and 70% in the United States, while the contribution of capital deepening appears much smaller (see Table 2). Overall, it appears that the factors underlying TFP as computed, such as mainly a better educated and higher skilled labor force, technical and organizational changes, knowledge spillovers, better institutions, make a much greater contribution to observed productivity growth than capital deepening per se.

In 1890, the level of TFP was roughly 100% higher in the United Kingdom, but 35% lower in France and 50% lower in Japan than in the United States. Given that TFP growth was relatively slow in the United Kingdom and fast in France, the level of TFP in both countries was close to that in the United States in 2006. Such remarkable convergence did not occur in Japan: for TFP it stopped at about 60% of the level of the United States in the early 1970s, and for hourly labor productivity it came to a halt in the early 1990s. To a significant extent, this can probably be attributed to persistent differences in industry composition. In Japan, as evidenced in Table 2, low productivity activities, such as agriculture, construction, trade and catering account for a larger share of the economy than in the other three countries.

2.1 ...by sub-periods

Our estimates of employee and hourly productivity growth and of the contributions of capital deepening and TFP are given in Table 2, and shown in the corresponding Graph 3.

³ Bourlès and Cette (2005, 2007) have shown that France's strong productivity performance compared to the United States at the end of the period can partly be explained by shorter working hours and a lower employment rate in France and diminishing returns of both working time and employment rate. Adjusting for these effects, the 2006 hourly labor productivity in France appears lower than in the United States by about 5%.

Only a few analyses provide comparable estimations for the four countries over the last century. As expected, our estimates of productivity per employee are very close to those of Maury and Pluyaud (2004), since these authors largely rely on the real GDP and employment data they have gathered and harmonized. The estimates are also consistent with the results presented by Gordon (2003), Cette (2004, 2007) and Van Ark, Frankema and Duteweerd (2004), who measure labor productivity growth over different sub-periods using the real GDP and employment estimates calculated by Maddison (2001). Our estimates of labor productivity and TFP are also consistent with those of Maddison (2007) who makes long-term comparisons between Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, and considers in particular two of the same sub-periods, 1913-1950 and 1950-1973.

Appendix Tables 3 (France), 4 (Japan, United Kingdom, and United States), and 5 (United States) show selected results from other researchers for comparison. As regards France, the labor productivity and TFP estimates by Dubois (1985), which builds on the major work of Carré, Dubois and Malinvaud (1972), are in very good accordance with ours, although these cover only market activities (and not the whole economy), and in spite of our simplified estimation of physical capital and of its contribution to growth (see Appendix Table 3). For the United Kingdom and Japan, our estimates of labor productivity and TFP growth are very similar to those of Maddison (2007) over both sub-periods 1913-1950 and 1950-1973 (see Appendix Table 4). For the United Kingdom, our estimates are also consistent with those of Crafts (2004a, b and c).

For the United States, our results for hourly productivity are not very different from those of Ferguson and Wascher (2004), although they consider the non-agricultural market sector for slightly different sub-periods (see Appendix Table 5). Our estimates of labor productivity and TFP growth are only roughly consistent with Maddison's: our estimate of TFP growth for the sub-period 1913-1950 is higher by about 0.7% per year (2.3% instead of 1.6%), while our estimate of hourly productivity differs 'only' by 0.3% (2.8% instead of 2.5%).

If we combine the two sub-periods following the first oil shock (1973-2006), our results confirm the “Big Wave” analysis of productivity in the United States offered by Gordon (1999, 2003). Hourly productivity and TFP in the United States accelerate after 1913, and then slowdown after 1950 and much more after 1973, while the contribution of capital deepening to growth remains almost unchanged. Employee productivity has a different evolution, growing fastest from 1950 to 1973. In France, Japan and the United Kingdom, we also observe such a “Big Wave”. It is, however, shifted forward, with both hourly and employee productivity growing faster during the years 1950-1973 than in the previous years 1913-1950. This appears more pronounced in Japan than in France, and in France than in the United Kingdom. These differences between the three countries and with the United States can be attributed to several factors, among which are the later diffusion of electricity, the slower improvement in the average education and skill level of the workforce (Van Ark, Frankema and Duteweerd, 2004), and greater protectionism (see Gordon, 2003, for a review of the literature). TFP appears to be the main determinant of employee and hourly productivity growth in the four countries, although capital deepening also contributes, especially in Japan since 1950.

Looking more precisely, we see behind these broad similarities substantial differences across the four countries depending on the sub-periods considered.

From 1890 to 1913, France, Japan and the United States experienced similar annual growth rates of productivity per employee (roughly 1.7%) and per hour (roughly 2%). Annual productivity growth was lowest in the United Kingdom, mainly on account of a smaller TFP contribution but also lower capital per employee-hour growth. In the four countries, the shares of the contributions of capital deepening and TFP to productivity growth are roughly similar (respectively 1/4 to 1/2 and 1/2 to 3/4). Compared to the United States, the level of hourly productivity in France and Japan thus remained unchanged at respectively roughly 45-50% and 20-25% of the U.S. level, while that in the United Kingdom dropped from around 125% to 105% of that in the U.S.

From 1913 to 1950, the average yearly growth in employee and hourly productivity was about 1.9% and 2.8% in the United States, that is much faster than in France (1.0% and 1.8%), Japan (1.3% and 1.8%) and especially in the United Kingdom (0.7% and 1.5%). Except for Japan, these differences can be attributed to different TFP contributions, since capital deepening increased at about the same rate in all three countries. In Japan, the contribution of capital deepening was very high during this sub-period (roughly 70% of hourly productivity growth). Consequently, as can be seen on Graph 1, the level of hourly productivity dropped in 1950 moderately for France and Japan (to respectively about 40% and 20% of the United States level), and much more for the United Kingdom (to 65% of the United States level).

From 1950 to 1973, the growth in employee and hourly productivity was particularly strong in Japan (7.5% and 7.4% per year respectively) and in France (4.7% and 5.2%), and much slower in the United Kingdom (2.5% and 2.8%) and in the United States (2.3% and 2.5%). The faster productivity growth in Japan and France can be mainly attributed to faster TFP growth, reflecting in part important changes in their economic structure. For example, it is mainly during this period that the share of agriculture in French GDP declined significantly, and became more in line with that in the United Kingdom and the United States.⁴ In 1973, hourly productivity in France and Japan improved markedly to reach a level of about respectively 70% and 50% of that of the United States, and France had caught up with the United Kingdom, which had experienced slower productivity growth.

During the short period between the two oil shocks (1973-1980), employee and hourly productivity growth slowed down significantly in the four countries. It was highest in France (2.6% and 3.4% per year respectively) and in Japan (2.6% and 3.2%), intermediate in the United Kingdom (0.9% and 2.1%) and very low in the United States (0.2% and 0.7%). In all four countries the slowdown in productivity growth is mainly linked to the

⁴ Card and Freeman (2002) estimated that between 1960 and 1979, the impact on labor productivity of a change in the weight of employment in the agricultural sector amounted to roughly 0.5% each year in France, against 0.1% in the United Kingdom and the United States.

slowdown in TFP growth, the contribution of capital deepening being almost unchanged or even higher in Japan compared with the previous sub-period.⁵ By 1980 hourly productivity in France and Japan had reached a level of about respectively 85% and 50% of that in the United States, and France had overtaken the United Kingdom (which had a level of 75%).

During the last sub-period 1980-2006, employee and hourly productivity continued to slowdown in France and Japan but not in the United States where they both strongly accelerated, nor in the United Kingdom, where employee productivity and TFP also recovered and hourly productivity maintaining its pace. Productivity per employee thus increased fastest in the United Kingdom (2.0% per year), followed by Japan (1.8%), the United States (1.6%) and France (1.5%), while hourly productivity improved most rapidly in Japan (2.4%), followed by France and the United Kingdom (2.2%) and the United States (1.6%). The slowdown in productivity can be attributed to the slowdown in both capital deepening and TFP growth in France, and to capital deepening only in Japan. The acceleration in productivity in the United States and the United Kingdom is also seen in TFP, while the contribution of capital deepening remained about the same in the United States and even declined in the United Kingdom. France continued to experience on average the highest TFP growth, in spite of very significant slowdown (from 1.8% to 1.3% per year).

Consequently, the level of hourly productivity relative to that in the United States increased markedly in France to become equal to that in the United States, and to a lesser extent in Japan and in the United Kingdom, reaching roughly 70% and 90% of the U. S. level.

3. LOOKING MORE CLOSELY AT PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH IN THE 1980-2006 PERIOD

In Section 3.1 we first focus on the changes in productivity growth over the five or ten year sub-periods 1980-1990, 1990-1995, 1995-2000 and 2000-2006, then in Section 3.2 we

⁵ Cette and Boursès (2007) have made the case that two thirds of the slowdown in US productivity growth over this sub-period can be accounted for by a rise in the employment rate and a smaller decline in working hours, with strong diminishing returns in both variables.

consider and comment on the specific contribution to growth of the rapid and pervasive diffusion of information and communication technologies (ICT) during these sub-periods.

3.1 Changes in productivity growth

Our estimates of employee and hourly productivity growth and the contributions of non-ICT and ICT capital deepening and TFP are presented by sub-periods in Table 3, and in the corresponding Graph 4 (in the same format as Table 2 and Graph 3).

During sub-period 1980-1990, employee productivity growth was the highest in Japan with an average rate of 2.7% per year, followed by France and the United Kingdom with a rate close to 2%, and it was the lowest in the United States with a rate of 1.4% (still, a much higher average rate than the 0.2% recorded in the previous sub-period 1973-1980). Hourly productivity growth was much faster in both Japan and France (close to 3%) than in the United Kingdom (2.0%) and the United States (1.4%). The growth differential in hourly productivity between Japan and France on the one hand and the United Kingdom and the United States on the other can be accounted for by a higher TFP contribution (1.5% and 1.7% as against 1.0% and 0.8%), as well as a greater contribution of capital deepening (1.6% and 1.2% as against 1.0% and 0.6%).

Over the sub-period 1990-1995, productivity growth differed widely across countries. In the United States, it was slightly slower than in the previous sub-period 1980-1990, corresponding to a slower TFP growth. In the United Kingdom, employee and hourly productivity growth increased sharply (by 0.7% and 0.8% respectively). A large share of this acceleration is due to a higher contribution of capital deepening. In France, employee and hourly productivity growth slowed considerably, both by about 1.0%. This slowdown reflects almost entirely that in TFP growth (which declined by 1.0%), and probably corresponds to a strong cyclical component given the decrease in GDP growth. The stronger TFP growth characteristic of France as compared to the United Kingdom and the United States thus came to an end in the early 1990s. In Japan, employee and hourly productivity growth also slowed down considerably, by 1.8% and 0.7% respectively. As in

France, this slowdown appears to be mostly related to a corresponding slowdown in TFP growth.

The sub-period 1995-2000 is characterized by a significant rise in GDP growth in France, the United Kingdom and the United States (by roughly 1.5% per year), but not in Japan where GDP growth slowed even further than previously (by 0.5%). As in the first half of the 1990s, productivity growth has developed differently in the four countries. In the United Kingdom, per hour and hourly productivity growth slowed down by approximately 0.5% per year, due to a lower contribution of non-ICT capital deepening and of TFP. In France, it remained stable, the acceleration in TFP being offset by a slowdown in non-ICT capital deepening (by 0.6%). This slowdown may result partly from the implementation of policies designed to enhance the labor intensity of growth, in particular reducing working time and cutting social contributions targeted at low skilled workers (see Cette, 2004). In the United States, productivity growth gained approximately 1% due to faster TFP growth. According to Gordon (2005), the fact that productivity accelerates in the United States but slows down in Europe can be attributed to several factors, among which are a predominance of ICT-producing industries, public policies that promote entrepreneurship, and better synergy between public research, private research and the financing of innovation. Finally, in Japan TFP growth remained stable and the slowdown in productivity is entirely due to a slowdown in non-ICT capital deepening.

The last sub-period 2000-2006 is characterized by a slowdown in productivity (about 0.4%) in France and the United-Kingdom and a small acceleration in productivity in the other two countries (by 0.2%). This is mainly accounted for by a smaller contribution of ICT capital deepening in the United Kingdom, of TFP in France, a higher contribution of capital deepening in the United States and of TFP in Japan.

To conclude, the productivity per employee and per hour graphs show that growth was mostly higher in the United States over the period 1995-2006 than in the other three countries, implying that the catching-up process had slowed or stopped. This result is due to higher growth in both ICT and non-ICT capital intensity and also in TFP (mainly due to

ICT-producer industries, see below) in the U.S., in comparison with the previous period. Therefore the success of the United States' productivity growth relative to the other three countries over the period 1995-2006 is due to ICT but not to ICT alone.

3.2 The contribution of ICTs to productivity

A number of studies (see for example Cette, Mairesse and Kocoglu 2002 and 2005b for a review of the literature) have tried to assess the contribution of ICTs to GDP and productivity growth, many of them relying on macroeconomic evidence and on the growth accounting framework. Most, if not all, of these studies conclude that ICTs have had a positive and significant impact over the past two decades, via two main channels:

- Substitution effects linked to the accumulation of ICT capital (capital deepening), which itself results from the continuous and rapid improvements in the productive performance of ICT investments, leading to a sharp fall in the price of ICT relative to other capital goods and labor. To take the most striking case, in the United States over the 1980-2004 period the price of computer hardware has decreased at an average yearly rate of 15%, while the GDP price deflator increased at an average yearly rate of 3%.
- TFP gains largely driven by rapid technological progress in the different ICT-producing industries.

As stressed in Cette, Mairesse and Kocoglu (2000), the relative importance attached to these two effects in growth accounting analyses depends to a great extent on the methodological choices and practices of statisticians and national accountants in measuring the prices of ICT and using them to construct real ICT investment series from nominal ICT investment. The more the estimation of price changes takes into account the improvements in ICT performance (through substantially upgraded products or new products), by relying in particular on hedonic methods, the larger is the contribution of capital deepening to productivity gains and the lower that of TFP, and conversely.

In what follows, we first briefly comment on the estimates of the ICT investment ratios to GDP in the four countries, then on the changes in ICT prices. We finally focus on the comparison of our estimates of the ICT capital deepening contribution to productivity growth across the four countries and with other studies.

a) ICT investment ratios to GDP

Measuring ICT investment in nominal terms already raises a number of difficulties. Putting aside the problem of the availability and reliability of series long enough to estimate capital stocks and services by implementing the (misleadingly called) permanent inventory method, a major difficulty is the breakdown between investment and intermediate consumption of total ICT expenditures, and another one is the measurement of investments in custom software and the purchase of prepackaged software. The solutions adopted by national accountants have differed between countries as well as over time.

For example, following the OECD recommendations on the international harmonization of the methods for measuring software investment, INSEE, the French National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies, changed its methods for breaking down software expenditures between intermediate consumption and investment on the one hand, and for measuring custom software expenditures on the other. As a result, the amount of software investment in 1999 rose from 11 billion Euros in the previous 1995-based national accounts to 21 billion Euros in the current 2000 base, that is a 90% increase. In the United Kingdom, Chesson and Chamberlin (2006) have shown that the methodological change in the measurement of software investment, particularly own account software, has led to a rise in the ratio of total software investment to GDP from 0.8% to 1.8% in 1999. These measurement difficulties also affect, but to a lesser extent, the estimation of ICT hardware investment. The estimates presented here are based on the most recent available statistics from all the countries, and therefore different from those in the older comparable studies.⁶

⁶ For France, these estimates are updated versions of those given in Mairesse, Cette and Kocoglu, 2000, which can be referred to for more details on the assumptions and problems involved in the different steps of the calculations of ICT capital and its contribution to growth.

Looking at Appendix Graph 1, which shows the ICT to GDP investment ratios in the four countries, we observe the following:

- In 1980, ICT investment in the United States accounted for 2% of GDP against only 1.2% in France and the United Kingdom and 1.4% in Japan. By 2005, the share of ICT investment to GDP had increased by a factor of two in the four countries;
- Overall, the ICT investment ratio to GDP has evolved similarly in the four countries. It accelerated from 1980 to 1985 and from 1995 to 2000, and remained stable, or even declined, from 1985 to 1994, and dropped slightly between 2001 and 2005;
- The burst of the Internet bubble in 2000-2001 led to a substantial fall in the ICT investment ratio in the four countries. In the United Kingdom and the United States particularly, the ICT investment ratio fell from 4.9% to 3.6% between 2000 and 2005. Such a decline in ICT investment appears to be a correction to overshooting at the end of the 1990s, partly fuelled by the financial market dotcom euphoria and the investment due to the possibility of a Y2K bug.

b) Changes in ICT prices

As already mentioned, perhaps the major difficulty, and hence the major uncertainty, in measuring the contribution of ICT capital deepening to growth lies in the measurement of changes in the prices of ICT products, which have had very rapid quality improvements in the recent past. Price statisticians and national accountants are gradually adopting hedonic methods to adjust prices for such quality improvements. However, there are substantial differences in the way in which different countries apply these methods. To avoid that such differences affect our comparison, and considering that ICT products with basically comparable characteristics are produced or imported everywhere in the developed world, we chose to rely only on the United States national accounts price indices for ICT

products. Precisely, we have assumed that, relative to the overall GDP price index, the quality adjusted prices for the three ICT product categories that can be distinguished in the national accounts (i.e., computer hardware, software and communication equipment) are the same in France, Japan and the United Kingdom as in the United States. This method, proposed by Colecchia and Shreyer (2001), seems realistic enough for developed countries and better than relying on national accounts data for ICT products that are not yet based on harmonized methods for quality adjustment.

Appendix Table 8 gives the overall ICT price average yearly growth rates by sub-period in the four countries calculated by weighting the price growth rates for computer hardware, software and communication equipment. The differences between countries arise from (i) differences in the GDP price growth rates and (ii) differences in the composition of ICT investments in computer hardware, software and communication equipment. Computer hardware experienced the largest price fall relative to other ICT products.⁷ Over the 1980-2005 period, the average annual decline in ICT prices was of the same magnitude in the United Kingdom and the United States (roughly 5%). In Japan, ICT prices decreased somewhat faster (by 5.7% per year) due to the slower growth of the GDP price (0.7% compared to 3%) and the larger share of computer hardware.⁸ In France, the price decreased less rapidly (by 4% per year) because of the smaller share of computer hardware and a faster growth of the GDP price. The 1995-2000 period is that of the most pronounced decrease in ICT prices in the four countries, ranging from 6.7% per year in France to 9.5% per year in Japan.

c) The contribution of ICT to productivity growth

The contribution of ICT to labor productivity growth is shown in Table 3 and Graph 4. The main findings are the following:

⁷ Between 1980 and 2005, computer hardware prices in the United States decreased at an average annual rate of 15%, compared with roughly 1% per annum for both software and communication equipment.

⁸ On average over the 1980-2005 period, computer hardware accounted for 25% of ICT investment in France, against 40% in the United Kingdom, 28% in the United States and 45% in Japan.

- Over the entire 1980-2006 period, the contribution of ICT capital to productivity growth per hour is greater than that of non-ICT capital in the United States but less than that of non-ICT capital in the other three countries;
- The contribution of ICT capital to average annual productivity growth (per employee or per hour) ranges, depending on the period, from 0.3 point to 0.7 point in the United States and the United Kingdom, from 0.3 point to 0.6 point in Japan and finally from 0.2 point to 0.3 point in France. The ICT investment ratio is roughly the same in the United Kingdom and the United States (see Appendix Graph 1), and the contribution of ICT to productivity growth is also the same. This important ICT impact can be attributed to the significantly faster average annual growth rate of the capital stock due to the rapid decrease in the global ICT price index (see Appendix Table 8). Compared to previous studies, the result that the contribution to productivity growth of ICT capital deepening was the same in the United Kingdom and in the United States can be attributed to the improvement in the measures of ICT investment in the United Kingdom from using a more appropriate price index. In France and Japan, the investment ratio is low and the annual growth rate of ICT capital per capita is slightly lower than in the United States;
- In all four countries, the contribution of ICT capital is the largest over the 1995-2000 period. It amounts to roughly 0.7 point in the United States and the United Kingdom, 0.6 point in Japan and 0.3 point in France. At the same time, the contribution of other equipment and buildings declined considerably in France, Japan and the United Kingdom compared with the previous period (about 1%). The faster decline in ICT prices over this period (Appendix Table 8) seems to have accelerated the substitution between ICT capital and non-ICT capital;
- Lastly, after 2000, the fall in ICT investment is directly reflected in the contribution of ICT capital to productivity growth. This effect is the less pronounced in France (-0.1% and -0.2% to -0.3% in the other three countries). Except in Japan, this

period was also marked by an increase in the contribution of non-ICT capital deepening to productivity growth in all countries, particularly in the United States (about 0.4%).

Cette and Lopez (2008) analyze in more detail the ICT diffusion gap among major industrialized countries vis à vis the United States during the period 1981-2005. Their results confirm the (positive) impact of the share of the population having completed higher education and the (negative) impact of market rigidities on ICT diffusion. These effects are heightened when ICT diffusion is already substantial. Compared to the United States, the lower ICT diffusion in the United Kingdom is explained by a shortfall in highly educated employees and for France and Japan by both lower shares of highly educated workers and also by higher market rigidities.

On the whole, the results presented here are in keeping with those obtained in the most recent international comparative studies, such as those by Jorgenson and Kuong (2005), the OECD (2003) or Van Ark and Piatkowski (2004), presented in Appendix Table 6. As regards France, they are consistent with our previous assessments (see Cette, Mairesse and Kocoglu, 2005b). For the United Kingdom, they are not directly comparable to the recent assessments by Oulton and Srinivasan (2005) on the market economy; although their profile is similar, the contribution of ICTs is lower than in our estimates. According to these authors, the contribution of ICT capital deepening accounts for 0.7% of the average annual increase in hourly labor productivity between 1979 and 1990 and for 1.0% over the 1990-2000 period. As regards the United States, although the scope of the economy covered is different, our results are very close to those of Jorgenson, Ho and Stiroh (2006, 2008), and Oliner, Sichel and Stiroh (2007), presented in Appendix Table 7. As regards Japan, our estimates are close to those of Jorgenson and Kuong (2005) for the 1990s but they show a greater decrease in the contribution of ICT capital-deepening to growth during the period 2000-2006 (see Appendix Table 6).

As mentioned above, national accountants are faced with a number of methodological problems when assessing ICT investment expenditure and establishing the volume-price

breakdown. However, since national accountants have been following the recommendations of the OECD-Eurostat Software Task Force, the measure of investment in software is more homogenous across countries.

4. CONCLUSION

The results of our study, in spite of being highly aggregated and confirming facts for many of them already known, are nevertheless striking. Possibly the most thought provoking findings are the far-reaching changes in the relative economic situation in France, Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom over the long period. While all four countries have experienced very rapid economic growth and extraordinary productivity gains, the past 120 years have also been characterized by the long relative decline of the United Kingdom until WW2, the impressive catching-up of Japan which came to a stop in the 1990s and that by France at least until recently.

At present, total factor productivity is very close in the four countries except Japan, where it is still significantly lower. However, hourly labor productivity is slightly higher in France than in the United States, significantly lower in the United Kingdom, and even lower in Japan. Furthermore, productivity per employee is slightly lower in France than in the United States, much lower in the United Kingdom and even lower in Japan. These differences reflect the more or less contrasting developments during the various periods of the analysis, associated with varying contributions of capital deepening and the downward trend in working hours.

Between 1890 and 2006, a faster drop in working time accounts for roughly 25% of the differential in the growth of productivity per employee between France and the United States, and just about 5% of that between the United Kingdom and the United States. Similarly, over the same period, the lower contribution of capital deepening explains 15% of the differential in the growth of productivity per employee between France and the United States and almost 25% of that between the United Kingdom and the United States. The other growth factors underlying total factor productivity account for 100% of France's

catching-up with American labor productivity and for 40% of the decline in British labor productivity compared with the United States. These other growth factors (i.e. working hours and capital deepening “being equal”) would thus account for the almost three-fold increase in French labor productivity compared with the United Kingdom, i.e. an average annual growth differential over 116 years of 1.0%.

It thus appears that the productivity catching-up process differs strongly among countries and periods. The three important questions are then: (i) why do some countries (and not others) benefit at certain periods (and not others) from a productivity catching-up of the highest country level? (ii) What are the determinants of the speed of this catching-up process when it happens? (iii) Why is this catching-up process achieved for some countries but ends before being achieved for others? Important recent literature suggests that these differences can mainly be explained by the education level of the working age population and by institutional aspects, such as rigidities in labor, product and financial markets.

However, the respective contribution of each of these different factors has not been precisely assessed. There is no consensus in the empirical literature on the effect of labor and product markets rigidities on growth. Numerous studies assess very disparate results: either no effect, or a positive or a negative impact (for a survey emphasising this diversity, see Babetskii and Campos, 2007).

In recent analysis, Aghion and Howitt (2006) and Aghion et al. (2009) stress that the education level and rigidities in labor and product markets have different effects depending on whether a country is far from or close to the technological frontier. We know that in the current period market rigidities are, at an aggregate level, the highest in Japan and the lowest in the United States, with France and the United Kingdom being in an intermediate situation. Such higher market rigidities in France, Japan and the United Kingdom than in the United States may have penalized them more in recent years when they are much closer to the United States technological frontier than during the period 1950-1980 when they were much farther from it. This might explain in part why the catching-up process

with the United States productivity has ended in the last two decades before being completely achieved for France, the United Kingdom and mainly Japan.

REFERENCES

Aghion, P., P. Askenazy, R. Brouillets, G. Clette and N. Dromel (2009): “Education, Market Rigidities and Growth”, *Economics Letters*, n° 102, 2008.

Aghion, P. and P. Howitt (2006): “Joseph Schumpeter Lecture – Appropriate Growth Policy : A Unifying Framework”, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, Vol. 4, Issue 2-3, April-May.

van Ark, B. and M. Piatkowski (2004): “Productivity, Innovation and ICT in Old and New Europe”, Research Memorandum GD-69, Groningen Growth and Development Centre, March.

van Ark, B., E. Frankema and H. Duteweerd (2004): “Productivity and Employment Growth: An Empirical Review of Long and Medium Run Evidence”, Research Memorandum GD-71, Groningen Growth and Development Centre, May.

van Ark, B., M. O’Mahony and M. Timmer (2008): “The Productivity Gap between Europe and the United States: Trends and Causes”, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 22, N° 1, Winter.

Babetskii, I. and N. F. Campos (2007): “Does reform work? An econometric examination of the reform-growth puzzle”, CEPR, Discussion Paper Series, n° 6215, April.

Bank of Japan (1966): “Hundred Year Statistics of the Japanese Economy”, Statistics Department, Table p. 27.

Brouillets, R. and G. Clette (2005): “A Comparison of Structural Productivity Levels in the Major Industrialised Countries”, *OECD Economic Studies*, No. 41, 2005/2.

Brouillets, R. and G. Clette (2007): “Trends in ‘Structural’ Productivity Levels in the Major Industrialized Countries”, *Economics Letters*, 95.

Cahn, C. and A. Saint-Guilhem (2006): “Potential Output Growth in Several Industrialised Countries: A Comparison”, Mimeo, April.

Card, D. and R. B. Freeman (2002): “What Have Two Decades of British Economic Reform Delivered?”, NBER Working Paper No. 8801, February.

- Carré, J. J., P. Dubois and E. Malinvaud (1972):** “La croissance française. Un essai d'analyse économique causale de l'après guerre”, Seuil, Paris.
- Cette, G. (2004):** “Diagnostic macroéconomique et lecture historique”, in P. Artus et G. Cette (eds.), *Productivité et croissance*, Rapport du CAE No. 48.
- Cette, G. (2007):** “Productivité et croissance en Europe et aux États-Unis”, La découverte, Collection Repères.
- Cette, G. and J. Lopez (2008):** “What Explains the ICT Diffusion Gap Between the Major Industrialized Countries: An Empirical Analysis?”, *International Productivity Monitor* n°17.
- Cette, G., J. Mairesse and Y. Kocoglu (2000):** “La mesure de l'investissement en technologies de l'information et de la communication: quelques considérations méthodologiques”, *Économie et Statistique*, n° 339-340, 2000 – 9/10.
- Cette, G., J. Mairesse and Y. Kocoglu (2002):** “Diffusion of ICTs and Growth of the French Economy over the Long-term, 1980-2000”, *International Productivity Monitor*, No. 4, Spring.
- Cette, G., J. Mairesse and Y. Kocoglu (2005a):** “Effets de la diffusion des TIC sur la croissance potentielle et observée”, *L'Actualité économique, Revue d'analyse économique*, Vol. 81, No. 1-2, March-June 2005.
- Cette, G., J. Mairesse and Y. Kocoglu (2005b):** “Un siècle de productivité en France”, *Banque de France Bulletin* No. 139, July.
- Chesson, A. and G. Chamberlin (2006):** “Survey-based Measures of Software Investment in the UK”, *Economic Trends* No. 627, February, p. 61-72.
- Colecchia, A. and P. Schreyer (2001):** “ICT Investment and Economic Growth in the 1990s: Is the United States a Unique Case”, OECD, DSTI/DOC(2001)7, 25 October.
- Crafts, N. (2004a):** “Steam as a General Purpose Technology: A Growth Accounting Perspective”, *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 114, April.
- Crafts, N. (2004b):** “Fifty Years of Economic Growth in Western Europe”, *World Economics*, Vol. 5, No. 2, April-June.
- Crafts, N. (2004c):** “The World Economy in the 1990s: A Long Run Perspective”, London School of Economics, Department of Economic History Working Paper No. 87/04, December.

- Dubois, P. (1985):** “Rupture de croissance et progrès technique”, *Economie et Statistique*, No. 181, p. 3-31.
- Feinstein, C. (1976):** *Statistical Tables of National Income, Expenditure and Output of the UK, 1855-1965*.
- Ferguson, R. W. and W.L. Washer (2004):** “Distinguished Lecture on Economics in Government: Lesson from Past Productivity Booms”, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 18, No. 2, Spring.
- Gordon, R. J. (1999):** “US Economic Growth since 1970: One Big Wave?”, *American Economic Review*, Vol. 89, No. 2, p.123-128.
- Gordon, R. J. (2003):** “Deux siècles de croissance économique: l'Europe à la poursuite des États-Unis”, *Revue de l'OFCE*, No. 84, Janvier.
- Gordon, R. J. (2005):** “Pourquoi, pendant que la locomotive de le productivité se mettait en branle aux États-Unis, l'Europe est elle-restée en gare?”, *L'Actualité économique, Revue d'analyse économique*, Vol. 81, No. 1-2, March-June 2005.
- Griliches, Z. (1996):** “The Discovery of the Residual: A Historical Note”, *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. XXXIV, p. 1324-1330.
- Groningen Growth and Development Database (2007):** The June 2007 version of the database may be downloaded at the following address: <http://www.ggdc.net>.
- Jorgenson, D. W., M. S. Ho and K. J Stiroh (2006):** “Potential Growth of the US Economy: Will the Productivity Resurgence Continue?”, *Business Economy*, January.
- Jorgenson, D. W., M. S. Ho and K. J. Stiroh (2008):** “A Retrospective Look at the U.S. Productivity Growth Resurgence”, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 22, N° 1, Winter.
- Jorgenson, D. W. and V. Kuong (2005):** “Information Technology and the World Economy”, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, Vol. 107, issue 4, December 2005.
- Jorgenson, D. W. and K. Motohashi (2005):** “Information Technology and the Japanese Economy”, *Journal of the Japanese and International Economies*, Vol. 19, No. 4, December 2005, pp. 460-481.
- Kocoglu, Y. (2001):** “La productivité du capital productif fixe sur longue période: une analyse empirique sur la France”, *Histoire Économie et Société*, No. 1, p.65-85.

- Lévy-Leboyer, M. (1978):** “Capital investment and Economic Growth in France [1820-1913]”, in *The Cambridge History of Europe*, Chapter V, p.231-295.
- Maddison, A. (1993):** “Standardised Estimates of Fixed Capital Stock: A Six Country Comparison”, *Essays on Innovation, Natural Resources and International Economy*, from *Innovazione e Materie Prime*.
- Maddison, A. (1994):** *Dynamic Forces in Capitalist Development*, Oxford University Press.
- Maddison, A. (2001):** “L'économie mondiale: une perspective millénaire”, OECD, Paris.
- Maddison, A. (2003):** “L'économie mondiale: Statistiques historiques”, OECD, Paris.
- Maddison, A. (2007):** *Contours of the World Economy, 1-2030 AD*, Oxford University Press.
- Mairesse, J., G. Cette and Y. Kocoglu (2000):** “Les Technologies de l'information et de la communication en France: diffusion et contribution à la croissance”, *Économie et Statistique*, No. 339-340, 2000 – 9/10.
- Maurry, T. and B. Pluyaud (2004):** “Les ruptures de tendance de la productivité par employé de quelques grands pays industrialisés”, *Banque de France Bulletin* No. 121, January.
- Mitchell, B. (1998):** “The Americas, 1750-1993”, *International Historical Statistics*, 4th Edition, Stockton Press.
- Mitchell, B. (1998):** “Europe, 1750-1993”, *International Historical Statistics*, 4th Edition, Stockton Press.
- OCDE (2003):** “ICT and Economic Growth: Evidence from OECD Countries, Industries and Firms”, OECD 2003, Paris.
- Oliner, S., D. Sichel and K. Stiroh (2007):** “Explaining a Productive Decade”, *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 1:2007.
- Oulton, N. and S. Srinivasan (2005):** “Productivity Growth in UK Industries, 1970-2000: Structural Change and the Role of ICT”, Bank of England Working Paper No. 259.
- Solow, R. (1956):** “A Contribution to the Theory of Growth”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 70, p. 65-94.
- Solow, R. (1957):** “Technical Change and Aggregate Production Function”, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 39, p. 312-320.

Timmer, M. P., G. Ypma and B. van Ark (2003): “IT in the European Union: Driving Productivity Divergence?”, Research Memorandum GD-67, Groningen Growth and Development Centre, October 2003.

Villa, P. (1994): “Un siècle de données macroéconomiques”, *Insee Résultats, Série Economie générale*, No. 86-87.

Box 1: The growth accounting approach to estimating the contribution of TFP and capital deepening⁹

Solow (1956, 1957) was one of the first to propose decomposing the effects of TFP and capital deepening on GDP using the growth accounting approach. The following equations discuss the decomposition of level and growth rate terms of GDP and productivity. We assume that the production possibilities may be represented using a production function with a multiplicative “total factor productivity” TFP term (for autonomous technical progress and/or other unmeasured factors). Production (or output Y) is written as the following:

$$Y = TFP \cdot F(K_j, L_i)$$

where K_j and L_i represent respectively the volume of j -type capital and i -type labor (or other variable inputs). Assuming that the production function is a Cobb-Douglas production function and labor is homogeneous (which is the case in the present study), we obtain the following relationship:

$$y = tfp + \sum_j \alpha_j k_j + \beta l$$

with a first difference (corresponding approximately to growth rates) of

$$\Delta y = \Delta tfp + \sum_j \alpha_j \Delta k_j + \beta \Delta l$$

where y , k_j , l and tfp represent the logs of the volume of output, j -type capital, labor and TFP , Δ is the first difference (or annual rate of change) and α_j and β are the elasticities of output with respect to the inputs K_j and L . We assume unit (constant) returns to scale:

$$\sum_j \alpha_j + \beta = 1.$$

The growth rate of the economy can be written as the sum of the growth rate of each input weighted according to its production elasticity and the growth rate of TFP (or technical progress). Growth accounting can also be presented in terms of labor productivity accounting (assuming constant returns to scale), as follows:

$$(y - l) = tfp + \sum_j \alpha_j (k_j - l)$$

with a first difference equation

$$(\Delta y - \Delta l) = \Delta tfp + \sum_j \alpha_j (\Delta k_j - \Delta l)$$

⁹ For a history of growth accounting and TFP (“the residual”), see Griliches (1996) and Maddison (2007).

where $\alpha_j(k_j - l)$ represents the contribution of j -type capital deepening to labor productivity.

In order to apply this decomposition, it is necessary to obtain estimates of production and its factors. In macroeconomic analyses, these data are available in national accounts. The sources used in this study are detailed in Box 2. It is also necessary to measure the elasticities of production with respect to inputs. In addition to the hypothesis of constant returns to scale, it is generally assumed that production factors are remunerated at their marginal productivity (at least over the medium to long term), which means that it is possible to estimate the factor elasticities on the basis of the share of their remuneration (cost) in total income (or total cost). Given that labor costs (wages and related social security contributions) represent roughly two thirds of income, it is assumed that $\sum_i \alpha_i = 0.3$ and therefore $\beta = 0.7$.

We also assume that the capital K used in year t is the stock of capital installed at the end of year $t-1$.

TFP is measured as a residual: it measures the contribution to labor productivity that is not attributable to factor inputs. Note that this kind of decomposition is mainly descriptive. Although it does not provide any causal explanations, it can be useful for making comparisons and finding the source of any differentials in productivity levels and growth rates between periods and countries.

In our study, the volume of labor L is written as $L = N*H$ where N is the level of employment and H the average annual working time. The decompositions of productivity are either productivity per employee or productivity per hour, and are conducted using the relations below (first for employment, and then for hours, where the contribution of TFP is the same in both):

$$(y - n) = tfp + \sum_j \alpha_j(k_j - n) + (1 - \sum_j \alpha_j)h$$

$$\Delta(y - n) = \Delta tfp + \sum_j \alpha_j \Delta(k_j - n) + (1 - \sum_j \alpha_j) \Delta h$$

$$(y - l) = tfp + \sum_j \alpha_j(k_j - l)$$

$$\Delta(y - l) = \Delta tfp + \sum_j \alpha_j \Delta(k_j - l)$$

Table 1 and Graph 2 present TFP per hour as a % of the United States' TFP level per hour. From a Cobb-Douglas production function with constant returns to scale, we can write productivity per hour as follows:

$$Y / L = TFP * \Pi_j (K_j / L)^{\alpha_j},$$

Then the level of TFP is calculated by the following relation:

$$\frac{Y/L}{\prod_j (K_j/L)^{\alpha_j}} = TFP$$

where α_j the elasticity of production for the j -type of capital is assumed constant over the period

with $\sum_j \alpha_j = 0.3$.

Box 2: Data Sources

The data sources on which we rely in this study are historical or national accounts series, which we put together to construct indicators over the very long term or, in the case of ICT, over the past few decades. In order to avoid breaks in these indicators, for sources from the more distant periods we calculated them using growth rates applied to the available historical and national accounts series.

In order to compare the levels of variables, we first expressed them in constant domestic currency terms on the basis of the year 2000, and then converted them into 2000 constant dollar terms, using the PPP exchange rates derived implicitly from PPP 2000 constant dollar GDP estimates provided by Maddison (2003).

The most commonly used databases are those of Maury and Pluyaud (2004), Cahn and Saint-Guilhem (2006) and Kocoglu (2001), which we respectively denote by (a), (b) and (c) in what follows.

GDP (gross domestic product)

- France: National accounts for the period 1959-2006 and Villa (1994)a for the period prior to 1959;
- Japan: National accounts for the period 1994-2006, OECD for the period 1970-1994 and Maddison (2001, 2003) for the period prior to 1970;
- United Kingdom: National accounts for the period 1965-2006b, Groningen Growth and Development Centre (GGDC) and Feinstein (1976) for the period prior to 1955a;
- United States: National accounts (BEA) for the period 1929-2006b and Mitchell (1998)a for the period prior to 1929.

Employment (average number of workers)

- France: National accounts from OECD for the period 1970-2006, GGDC for the period 1959-1970 and Villa (1994)a for the period prior to 1959;
- Japan: OECD for the period 1970-2006, GGDC for the period 1959-1970 and Maddison (2001, 2003) for the period prior to 1959;
- United Kingdom: OECD for the period 1970-2006, GGDC for the period 1959-1980 and Feinstein (1976)a for the period prior to 1959;
- United States: National accounts for the period 1970-2006b, GGDC for the period 1959-1970 and Mitchell (1998)a for the period prior to 1959.

Working time (average number of hours worked per year, per worker)

- For the four countries: OECD for the period 1970-2006; GGDC for the period 1950-1969; Maddison (2001) for 1870, 1913 and 1950; linear interpolation for the periods 1890-1913, 1913-1950.

Investment

- France: National accounts for the period 1959-2006, Maddison (1993) for the period 1935-1959, Levy-Leboyer (1978)c for the period 1820-1935. The breakdown of total GFCF between equipment and buildings is taken from Villa (1994) for the period 1820-1935;
- Japan: National accounts for the period 1980-2006 and Maddison (1993) for the period prior to 1980;
- United Kingdom: National accounts for the period 1965-2006b and Maddison (1993) for the period prior to 1965;
- United States: National accounts for the period 1967-2006b and Maddison (1993) for the period prior to 1967.

ICT investment

- France: GGDC (EUKLEMS) for the period 1970-2005;
- Japan: GGDC (EUKLEMS) for the period 1970-2004;
- United Kingdom: GGDC (EUKLEMS) for the period 1970-2005;
- United States: GGDC (EUKLEMS) for the period 1970-2005 and trend from the BEA for the market economy for the period 1959-1969.

Fixed capital

- Fixed capital series are constructed on the assumption that the annual depreciation rates are: 2.5% for buildings, 10% for non-ICT equipment, 15% for communication equipment and 30% for computer hardware and software. The coefficients used to take into account WW1 and WW2 damages in France are taken from Villa (1994)c. For Japan, WW2 damages are implicitly taken into account by using the Maddison (1993) growth rate for the period prior to 1946. For this country, the WW2 damage coefficients are those proposed by the Bank of Japan (1966), and the Maddison depreciation assumption (1993) are consistent with ours.

Prices of ICT products

- The relative ICT price indexes (compared to GDP prices) for France, Japan and the United Kingdom are the same as those taken from the United States national accounts (see Colecchia and Shreyer, 2001, for detailed discussion about this procedure).

TABLES

Table 1: Productivity levels and average growth, 1890-2006 -(ppp 2000 dollar)

	Annual average growth rates, in %, 1890-2006				Levels, as a % of the United States level					
					1890			2006		
	France	Japan	United Kingdom	United States	France	Japan	United Kingdom	France	Japan	United Kingdom
Labor productivity per employee	2.1	2.8	1.4	1.8	64.7	22.2	129.3	91.0	72.6	86.4
Labor productivity per hour	2.7	3.2	1.9	2.2	59.4	23.2	123.3	100.9	69.7	88.6
Total factor productivity per hour	1.6	1.8	1.0	1.6	65.9	49.9	203.0	90.8	60.6	105.9

Source: Authors' estimation, see Box 1 for data sources and Box 2 for details on TFP calculations.

Table 2: Average annual labor productivity growth and contributions (% per year), in France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States

A – France

	1890- 1913	1913-1950	1950-1973	1973-1980	1980-2006
GDP	1.9	0.9	5.3	2.9	2.1
Productivity per employee [a]	1.6	1.0	4.7	2.6	1.5
Productivity per hour [b]	1.9	1.8	5.2	3.4	2.2
Contributions to productivity per hour:					
Capital intensity, per hour [c]	0.5	0.3	1.2	1.6	0.9
Total factor productivity [d]	1.4	1.5	4.0	1.8	1.3

B – Japan

	1890- 1913	1913-1950	1950-1973	1973-1980	1980-2006
GDP	2.5	2.2	9.3	3.4	2.3
Productivity per employee [a]	1.8	1.3	7.5	2.6	1.8
Productivity per hour [b]	2.1	1.8	7.4	3.2	2.4
Contributions to productivity per hour:					
Capital intensity, per hour [c]	0.9	1.1	2.0	2.3	1.4
Total factor productivity [d]	1.2	0.7	5.4	0.9	1.0

C – United Kingdom

	1890- 1913	1913-1950	1950-1973	1973-1980	1980-2006
GDP	1.9	1.3	2.9	1.0	2.5
Productivity per employee [a]	0.9	0.7	2.5	0.9	2.0
Productivity per hour [b]	1.2	1.5	2.8	2.1	2.2
Contributions to productivity per hour:					
Capital intensity, per hour [c]	0.3	0.5	1.6	1.6	1.1
Total factor productivity [d]	0.9	1.0	1.2	0.5	1.1

D – United States

	1890- 1913	1913-1950	1950-1973	1973-1980	1980-2006
GDP	4.1	3.2	4.0	2.5	3.1
Productivity per employee [a]	1.6	1.9	2.3	0.2	1.6
Productivity per hour [b]	2.0	2.8	2.5	0.7	1.6
Contributions to productivity per hour:					
Capital intensity, per hour [c]	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.7
Total factor productivity [d]	1.3	2.3	1.7	0.1	0.9

[b] = [c] + [d]. Source: Authors' estimation, see Box 1 for data sources and Box 2 for details on TFP calculations. Scope: Economy as a whole

Table 3: Average annual labor productivity growth and contributions (% per year), in France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States

A - France

	1980-2006	1980-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2006
GDP	2.1	2.4	1.2	2.8	1.7
Productivity per employee [a]	1.5	2.1	1.2	1.2	1.1
Productivity per hour [b]	2.2	2.9	1.8	1.9	1.6
Capital intensity per hour [c]	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.5	0.7
<i>Non-ICT capital intensity per hour</i>	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.4
<i>ICT capital intensity per hour</i>	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
TFP [d]	1.3	1.7	0.8	1.4	0.9

B - Japan

	1980-2006	1980-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2006
GDP	2.3	3.9	1.5	1.0	1.5
Productivity per employee [a]	1.8	2.7	0.9	1.0	1.6
Productivity per hour [b]	2.4	3.1	2.4	1.7	2.0
Capital intensity per hour [c]	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.5	0.8
<i>Non-ICT capital intensity per hour</i>	1.0	0.3	1.5	0.9	0.5
<i>ICT capital intensity per hour</i>	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.3
TFP [d]	1.0	1.5	0.5	0.2	1.2

C – United-Kingdom

	1980-2006	1980-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2006
GDP	2.5	2.6	1.7	3.2	2.5
Productivity per employee [a]	2.0	1.9	2.5	1.9	1.6
Productivity per hour [b]	2.2	2.0	2.8	2.3	2.0
Capital intensity per hour [c]	1.1	1.0	1.5	1.1	0.9
<i>Non-ICT capital intensity per hour</i>	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.4	0.5
<i>ICT capital intensity per hour</i>	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.4
TFP [d]	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.1

D – United States

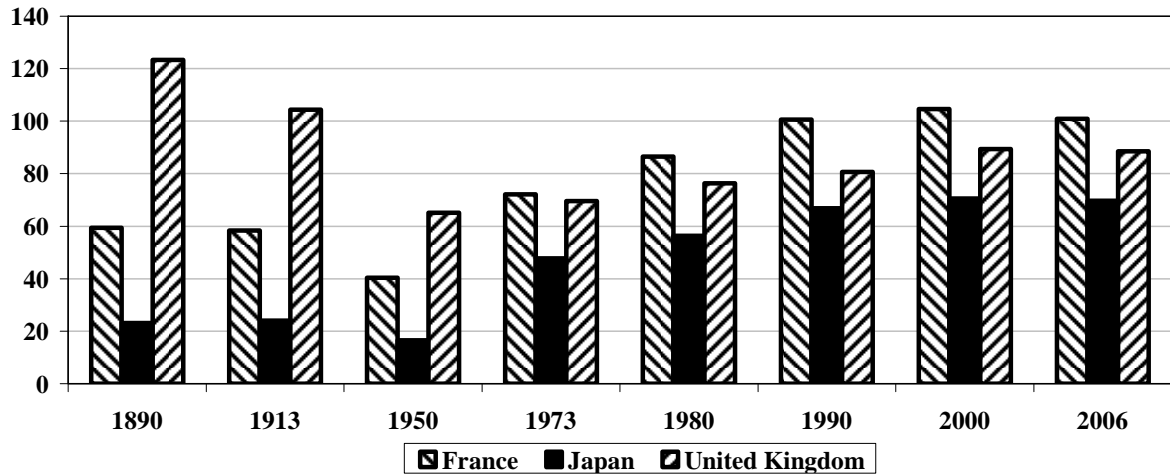
	1980-2006	1980-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2006
GDP	3.1	3.3	2.5	4.1	2.4
Productivity per employee [a]	1.6	1.4	1.2	2.0	1.9
Productivity per hour [b]	1.6	1.4	1.0	2.0	2.2
Capital intensity per hour [c]	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.0
<i>Non-ICT capital intensity per hour</i>	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.6
<i>ICT capital intensity per hour</i>	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.4
TFP [d]	0.9	0.8	0.5	1.2	1.2

[d] = [b]-[c]. Source: Authors' estimation, see Box 1 for data sources and Box 2 for details on TFP calculations. Scope: Economy as a whole

GRAPHS

Graph 1: Labor productivity per hour, as a % of the United States level

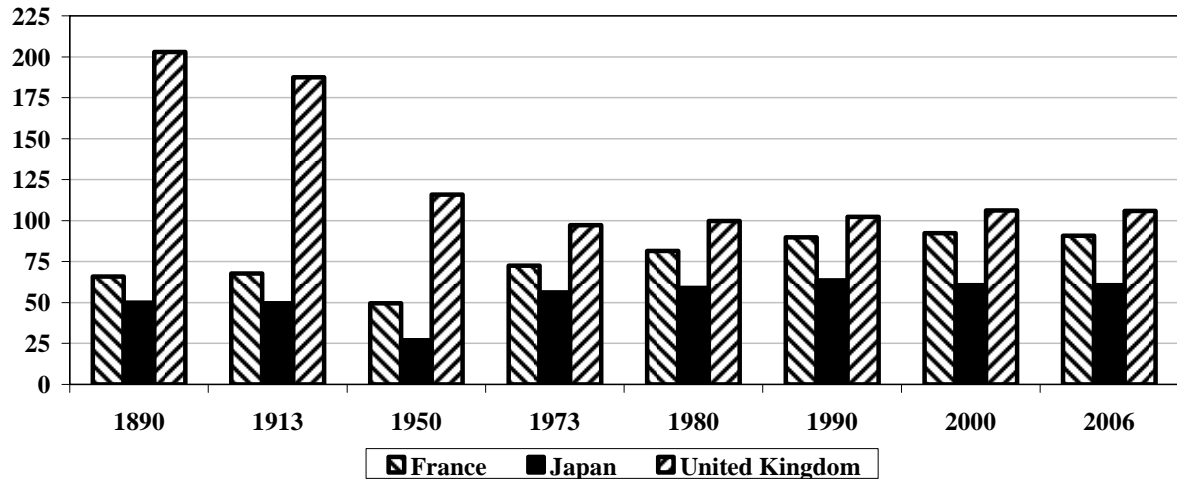
Scope: Economy as a whole - PPP dollar 2000



Source: Authors' estimation, see Box 1 for data sources and Box 2 for details on TFP calculations.

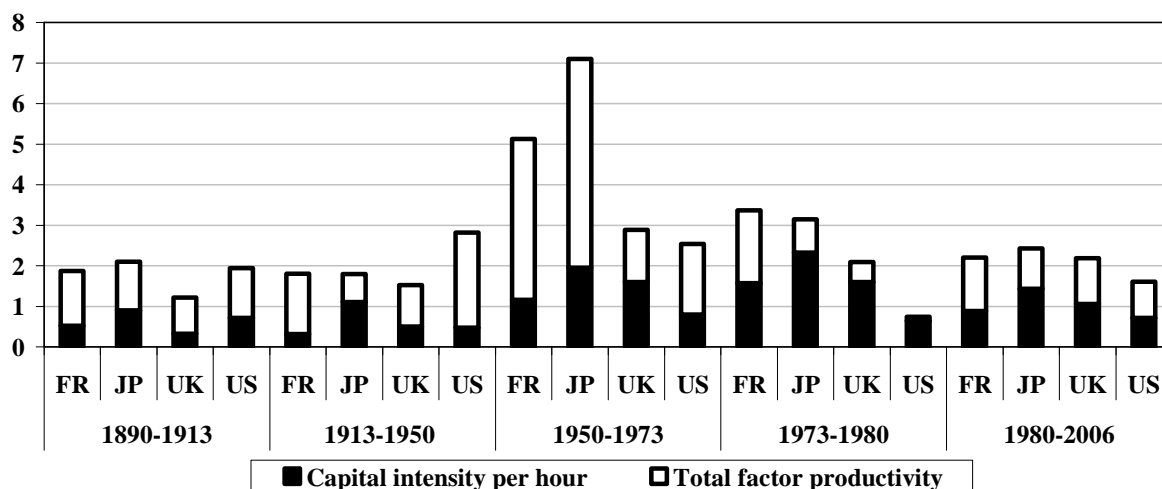
Graph 2: Total factor productivity, as a % of the United States level

Scope: Economy as a whole - PPP dollar 2000



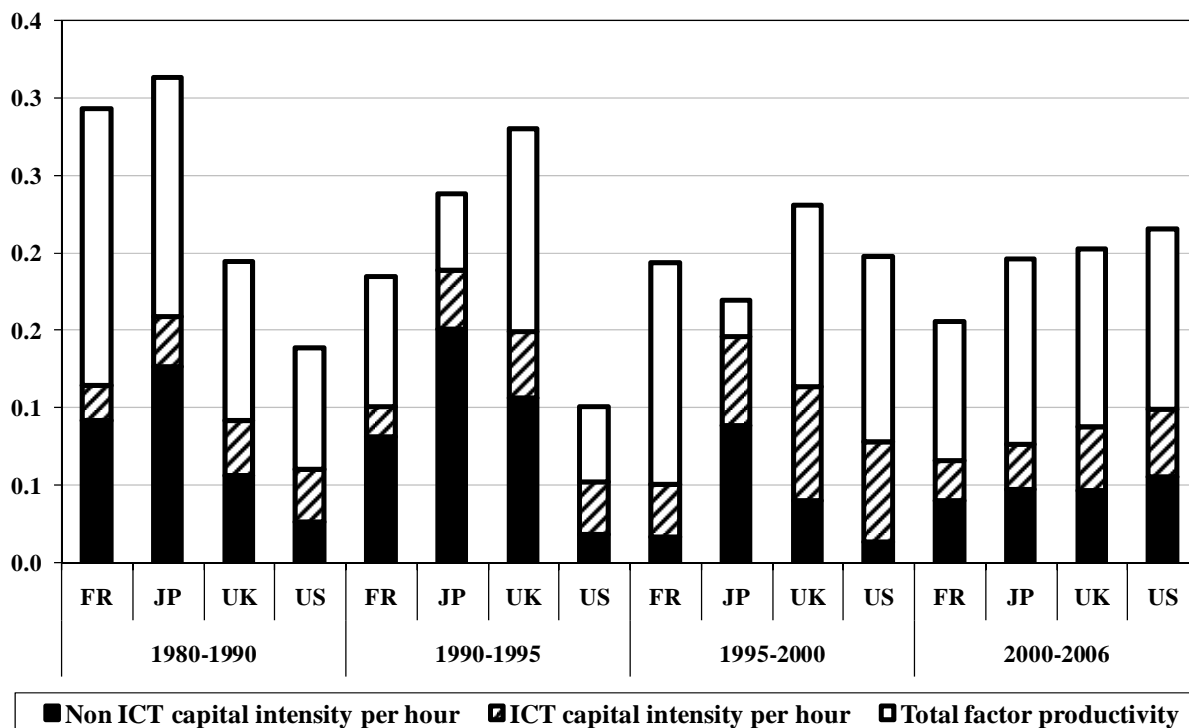
Source: Authors' estimation, see Box 1 for data sources and Box 2 for details on TFP calculations.

Graph 3: Average annual hourly labor productivity growth (in %) and contributions in France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States - 1890-2006 - In percentage points
Scope: Economy as a whole



Source: Authors' calculation, see Box 1 for data sources and Box 2 for details on TFP estimations..

Graph 4: Average annual hourly labor productivity growth (in %) and contributions in France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States - 1890-2006 - In percentage points
Scope : Economy as a whole



Source: Authors' calculation, see Box 1 for data sources and Box 2 for details on TFP estimations.

APPENDIX TABLES

Appendix Table 1: GDP per hour worked, as a % of the United States level (in ppp 1990\$)

	1870	1913	1950	1973	2003
Japan	20	21	16	49	64
United Kingdom	113	84	63	67	79

Source: From Maddison (2007, Table 6.4, p. 305). Scope: Economy as a whole

Appendix Table 2: Structure of employment, as a % of total employment

	France		Japan		United Kingdom		United States	
	1970	2004	1970	2004	1970	2004	1970	2004
Agriculture and mining	14.3	3.7	20.2	5.4	5.2	1.5	5.2	2.8
Manufacturing, gas and water	25.8	14.4	26.5	17.7	33.0	12.3	23.2	10.9
Construction	10.2	6.3	8.1	9.0	7.2	6.8	5.0	6.0
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels	15.5	17.3	20.9	25.5	19.0	23.3	21.6	23.8
Transport and storage and communication	5.6	6.2	5.6	5.8	6.7	5.9	4.6	4.2
Other services	28.7	52.0	18.8	36.6	28.9	50.2	40.5	52.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Base EUKLEMS

Appendix Table 3: Breakdown of labor productivity growth in France (% per year)

	1896-1913	1913-1929	1929-1951	1951-1973	1973-1984
Productivity per employee	1.7	1.5	1.3	5.2	2.4
Productivity per hour [b]	2.0	2.5	1.7	5.6	3.8
Contributions :					
Capital intensity, per hour [c]	0.6	0.7	0.5	1.4	1.8
Total factor productivity [d]	1.4	1.8	1.2	4.2	2.0

[b] = [c] + [d]. Source: Dubois (1985, from Tables 6 and 8, p. 14 and 21). Scope: Business sector.

Appendix Table 4: Average annual hourly productivity and total factor productivity growth (% per year)

	Labor productivity			Total factor productivity		
	Japan	United Kingdom	United States	Japan	United Kingdom	United States
1870-1913	2.0	1.2	1.9	-0.2	0.3	0.4
1913-1950	1.8	1.7	2.5	0.2	0.8	1.6
1950-1973	7.7	3.1	2.8	5.1	1.5	1.8
1973-2003	2.6	2.2	1.7	0.6	0.9	0.7

Source: Maddison (2007, Table 6.5, p. 306). Scope: Economy as a whole.

Appendix Table 5

Breakdown of United States hourly productivity growth (% per year)

	1890-1917	1917-1927	1927-1948	1948-1973	1973-1995	1995-2003
Productivity per hour [b]	1.5	3.8	1.8	2.9	1.4	3.0
Contributions :						
Capital intensity, per hour [c]	0.7	1.0	0.1	1.0	1.0	1.6
Total factor productivity [d]	0.8	2.8	1.7	1.9	0.4	1.4

[b] = [c] + [d]. Source: Ferguson and Wascher (2004, p. 6). Scope: Non-agricultural market sector.

Appendix Table 6: Average annual ICT contribution to the growth of GDP or labor productivity (% per year) in France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Japan.

Results of some international comparisons

	Jorgenson and Kuong (2005)*			OECD (2003)*		Van Ark and Piatkowski (2004)**	Van Ark, O'Mahony and Timmer (2008)
	1989-1995	1995-2000	2000-2004	1990-1995	1995-2001	1995-2001	1995-2004
France	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5
Japan	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.6	na	na
United Kingdom	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	1.0
United States	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.8

* Contribution to GDP growth, ** Contribution to the growth of the labor productivity per employee. Scope: Whole economy

Appendix Table 7: Average annual labor productivity growth and contributions (%per year) in the United States

	Oliner Sichel and Stiroh (2007)*			Jorgenson, Ho and Stiroh (2008)**				
	1973-1995	1995-2000	2000-2006	1959-2006	1959-1973	1973-1995	1995-2000	2000-2006
Productivity per hour	1.47	2.51	2.86	2.14	2.82	1.49	2.70	2.50
Capital intensity per hour	0.76	1.11	0.85	1.14	1.40	0.85	1.51	1.26
<i>Non-ICT capital intensity per hour</i>	0.30	0.02	0.24	0.70	1.19	0.45	0.49	0.69
<i>ICT capital intensity per hour</i>	0.46	1.09	0.61	0.43	0.21	0.40	1.01	0.58
TFP	0.71	1.40	2.01	0.75	1.14	0.39	1.00	0.92

Scope: * Non-farm business sector, ** Private economy

Appendix Table 8

Average annual ICT price growth (% per year) in France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Japan- 1980-2005

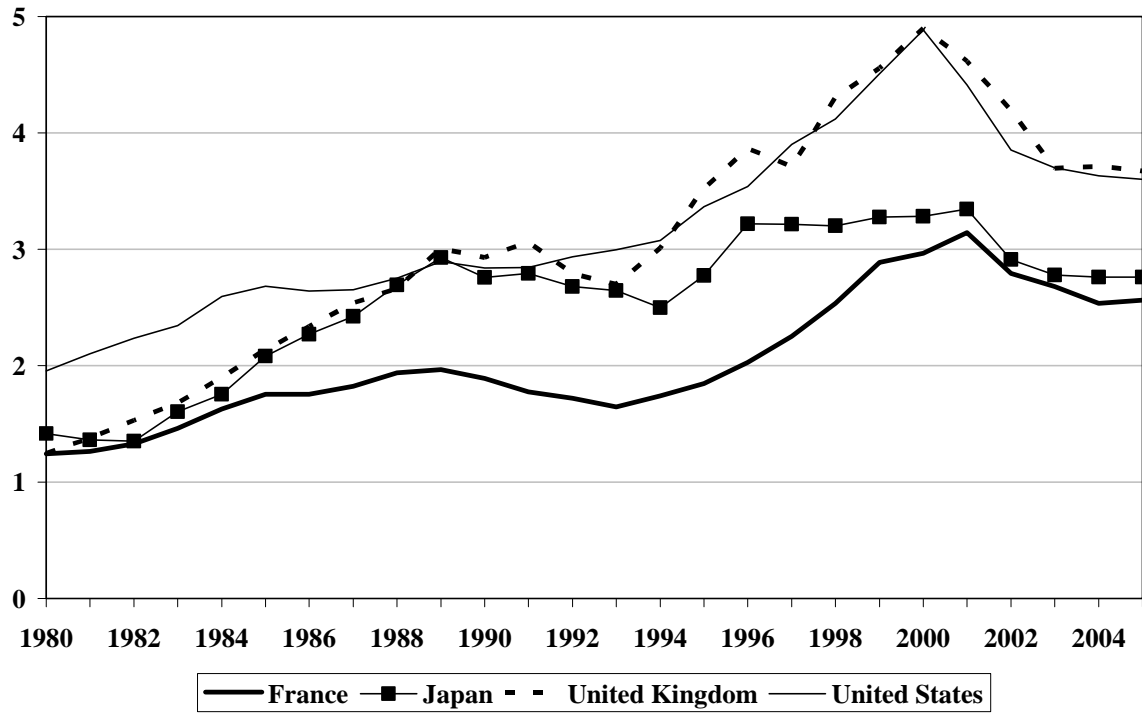
	1980-2005	1980-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005
France	-4.0	-1.5	-5.8	-6.7	-4.5
Japan	-5.7	-3.5	-6.6	-9.5	-5.3
United Kingdom	-5.2	-3.5	-5.9	-8.2	-4.8
United States	-4.8	-3.5	-5.4	-7.4	-4.3

Sources and estimations: See Box 1.

Appendix Graph 1

ICT investment –GDP ratio in France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Japan for 1980-2005

In percentage points



Sources: see Box 1.

Scope: Economy as a whole

Documents de Travail

250. A. Monfort, «Une modélisation séquentielle de la VaR,» Septembre 2009
251. A. Monfort, “Optimal Portfolio Allocation under Asset and Surplus VaR Constraints,” September 2009
252. G. Clette and J. Lopez, “ICT Demand Behavior: An International Comparison,” September 2009
253. H. Pagès, “Bank Incentives and Optimal CDOs,” September 2009
254. S. Dubecq, B. Mojon and X. Ragot, “Fuzzy Capital Requirements, Risk-Shifting and the Risk Taking Channel of Monetary Policy,” October 2009
255. S. Frappa and J-S. Mésonnier, “The Housing Price Boom of the Late '90s: Did Inflation Targeting Matter?” October 2009
256. H. Fraise, F. Kramarz and C. Prost, “Labor Court Inputs, Judicial Cases Outcomes and Labor Flows: Identifying Real EPL,” November 2009
257. H. Dixon, “A unified framework for understanding and comparing dynamic wage and price-setting models,” November 2009
258. J. Barthélemy, M. Marx and A. Poissonnier, “Trends and Cycles: an Historical Review of the Euro Area,” November 2009
259. C. Bellégo and L. Ferrara, “Forecasting Euro-area recessions using time-varying binary response models for financial variables,” November 2009
260. G. Horny and M. Picchio, “Identification of lagged duration dependence in multiple-spell competing risks models,” December 2009
261. J-P. Renne, “Frequency-domain analysis of debt service in a macro-finance model for the euro area,” December 2009
262. C. Célérier, “Forecasting inflation in France,” December 2009
263. V. Borge, L. Clerc and J-P. Renne, “Asset-price boom-bust cycles and credit: what is the scope of macro-prudential regulation?,” December 2009
264. S. Dubecq and I. Ghattassi, “Consumption-Wealth Ratio and Housing Returns,” December 2009
265. J.-C. Bricongne, L. Fontagné, G. Gaulier, D. Taglioni and V. Vicard, “Firms and the Global Crisis: French Exports in the Turmoil,” December 2009
266. L. Arrondel and F. Savignac, “Stockholding: Does housing wealth matter?,” December 2009
267. P. Antipa and R. Lecat, “The “housing bubble” and financial factors: Insights from a structural model of the French and Spanish residential markets,” December 2009
268. L. Ferrara and O. Vigna, “Cyclical relationships between GDP and housing market in France: Facts and factors at play,” December 2009
269. L.J. Álvarez, G. Bulligan, A. Cabrero, L. Ferrara and H. Stahl, “Housing cycles in the major euro area countries,” December 2009
270. P. Antipa and C. Schalck, “Impact of Fiscal Policy on Residential Investment in France,” December 2009

271. G. Cette, Y. Kocoglu, and J. Mairesse, "Productivity Growth and Levels in France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States in the Twentieth Century," January 2010

Pour accéder à la liste complète des Documents de Travail publiés par la Banque de France veuillez consulter le site :

http://www.banque-france.fr/fr/publications/documents_de_travail/documents_de_travail_10.htm

For a complete list of Working Papers published by the Banque de France, please visit the website:

http://www.banque-france.fr/fr/publications/documents_de_travail/documents_de_travail_10.htm

Pour tous commentaires ou demandes sur les Documents de Travail, contacter la bibliothèque de la Direction Générale des Études et des Relations Internationales à l'adresse suivante :

For any comment or enquiries on the Working Papers, contact the library of the Directorate General Economics and International Relations at the following address :

BANQUE DE FRANCE

49- 1404 Labolog

75049 Paris Cedex 01

tél : 0033 (0)1 42 92 49 55 ou 62 65 ou 48 90 ou 69 81

email : thierry.demoulin@banque-france.fr

jeannine.agoutin@banque-france.fr

veronique.jan-antuoro@banque-france.fr

[nathalie.bataille-salle@banque-france.f](mailto:nathalie.bataille-salle@banque-france.fr)