

Labor I: Labor Supply, Productivity, and Earnings Heterogeneity

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- Labor supply decisions
 - How do people respond to wage changes (more hours, different jobs)? How can we estimate the causal effects of those changes?
 - Why is labor supply important for economic growth?
 - How can we estimate the effects of temporary vs. permanent changes?
 - How do we separate income and substitution effects? Why is it important to do so?
 - How has labor supply changed over the last several decades? Centuries?
- Women's and minorities' labor force participation
 - Why has women's employment risen over the last 50 years?
 - Why have minorities expanded into new fields and careers?
 - What unique challenges do these workers face?
 - What explains current gaps in labor market outcomes among these groups?
 - How does the inclusion of women and minorities affect economic growth?
- Earnings inequality
 - Why do similar workers earn different amounts?
 - How does labor market experience affect both earnings and earnings inequality?
 - How does the labor market adjust to international migration? What happens to workers?
 - Why do workers adjust and sort across labor markets? What's the effect of this sorting?
- Labor share
 - The share of compensation going to labor has been falling for decades. Why is this?
 - How does the labor share affect other economic and political outcomes?
 - How do recent declines compare to the centuries-long evolution of the labor share?
- Productivity
 - Beyond skills, incentives, and standard human capital factors, what affects workers' productivity?
 - How important is management for worker and firm performance?
 - How important are psychological factors like morale, happiness, and stress?
- Recessions
 - Why do recessions leave career-long scars on workers who graduate into them? Or are laid off during them?
 - How does labor supply change during the recessions? Why?
 - Recessions create credit shortages. How do these firm-level shocks propagate to workers? Or the aggregate economy?
 - What are the effects of unemployment insurance on job search? On match quality? On welfare? Is it different during recessions?
- Non-traditional work arrangements
 - What are the most important changes in employment relationships over the last decade?
 - What explains the rise in the contingent and contract work force?
 - What are the effects of this rise on growth? On workers' welfare?