



**FEDERATION OF
AWARDING BODIES**

awarding.org.uk

AO Forum, London 01 May 2024

**John McNamara
FAB Interim CEO
Chair of Innovate Awarding Ltd**



Thanks for the Invite!

This session is about
influencing



Manifesto:

“A document publicly declaring the position or programme of its issuer. It advances a set of ideas, opinions, or views, laying out a plan of action”

Benefits:

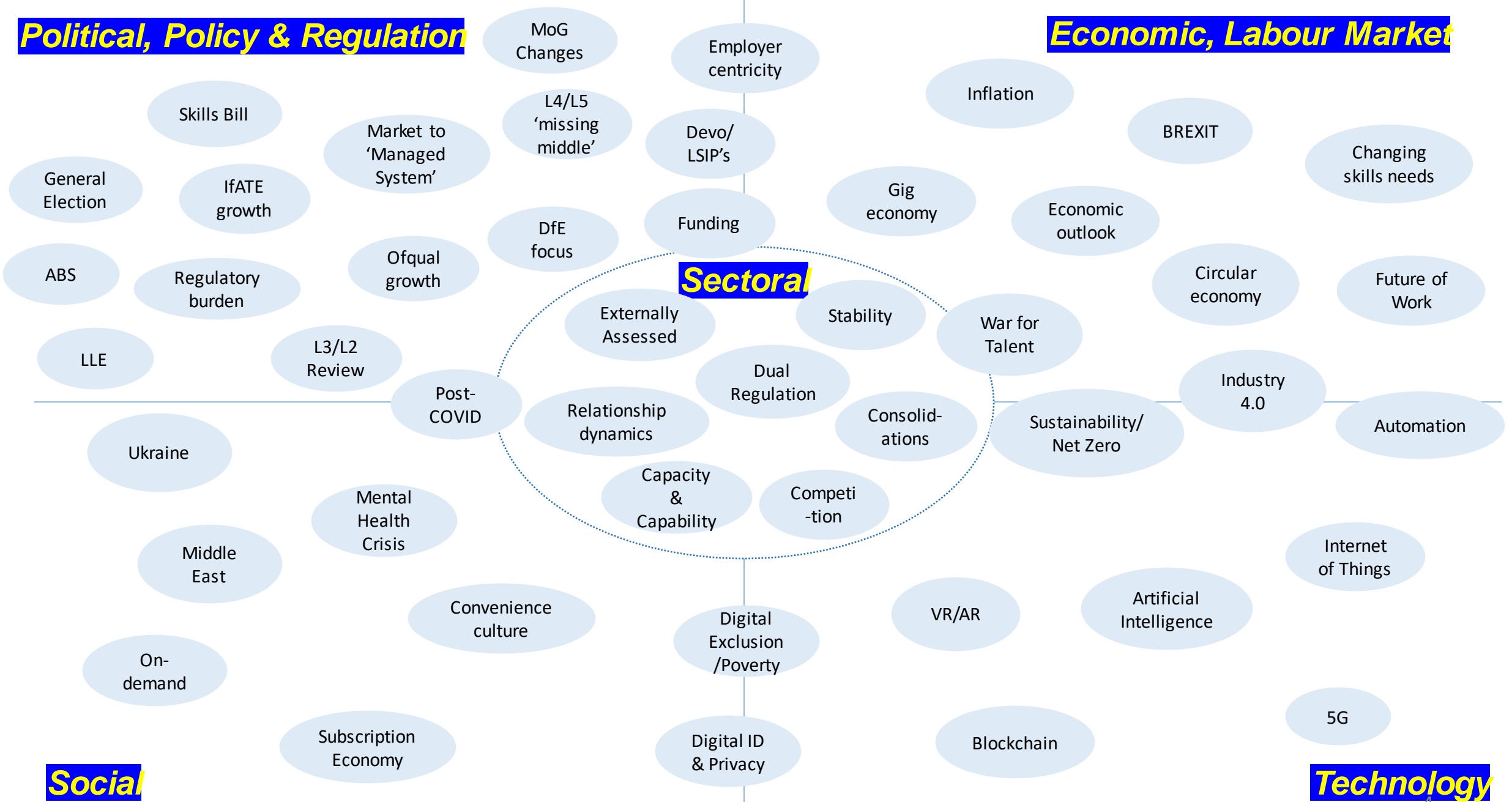
- Public declaration of importance of qualifications in changing lives
- Use in policy brief documents
- Website and social media
- Feature in influencing meetings:
 - Govt. & Opposition parties
 - Regulators
 - Policy makers
 - Trade media
 - Wide range of FAB stakeholders
 - Other sector groups and trade associations



Confidential

Political, Policy & Regulation

Economic, Labour Market



Social

Technology

Running to Stand Still Report – Sept 2023

Conclusions/main findings:

- Skills operate in a UK-wide 'ecosystem'
- UK growth is due to increasing labour supply – not matched by increasing productivity
- Past skills policy reviews have not translated into sustainable productivity growth
- Policy change and implementation needs constant monitoring and evaluation
- A 'long view' of skills policy is vital
- Rapid streamlining of qualifications risk being harmful to learners



Tribal wisdom:



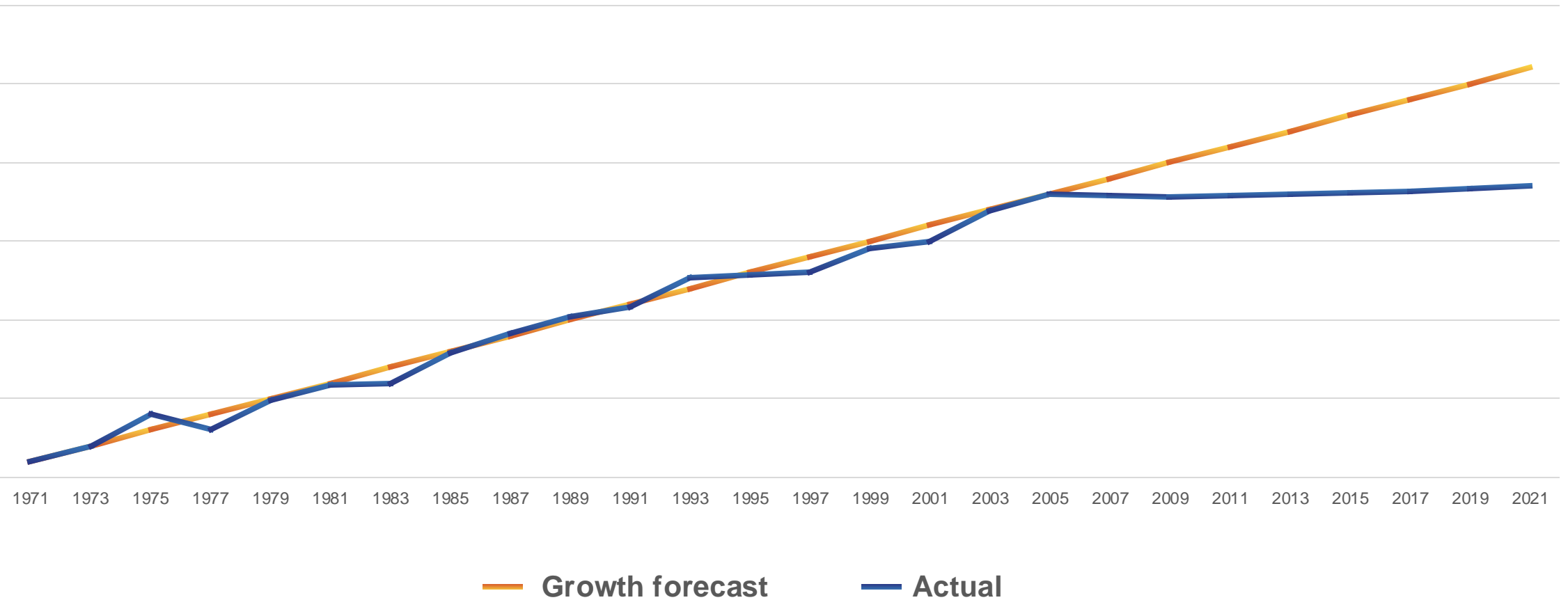
“When you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best policy is to dismount.”

Riding a Dead Horse – More common approaches in the UK:

- 1) Buy a bigger whip
- 2) Change riders
- 3) Threaten the horse with redundancy
- 4) Appoint a committee to study the dead horse
- 5) Employ contractors to ride the dead horse
- 6) Arrange a visit to other sites to see how they ride dead horses
- 7) Harness several dead horses together to increase speed
- 8) Declare that the dead horse carries lower overhead and contributes more to the bottom line than other horses
- 9) Promote the dead horse!

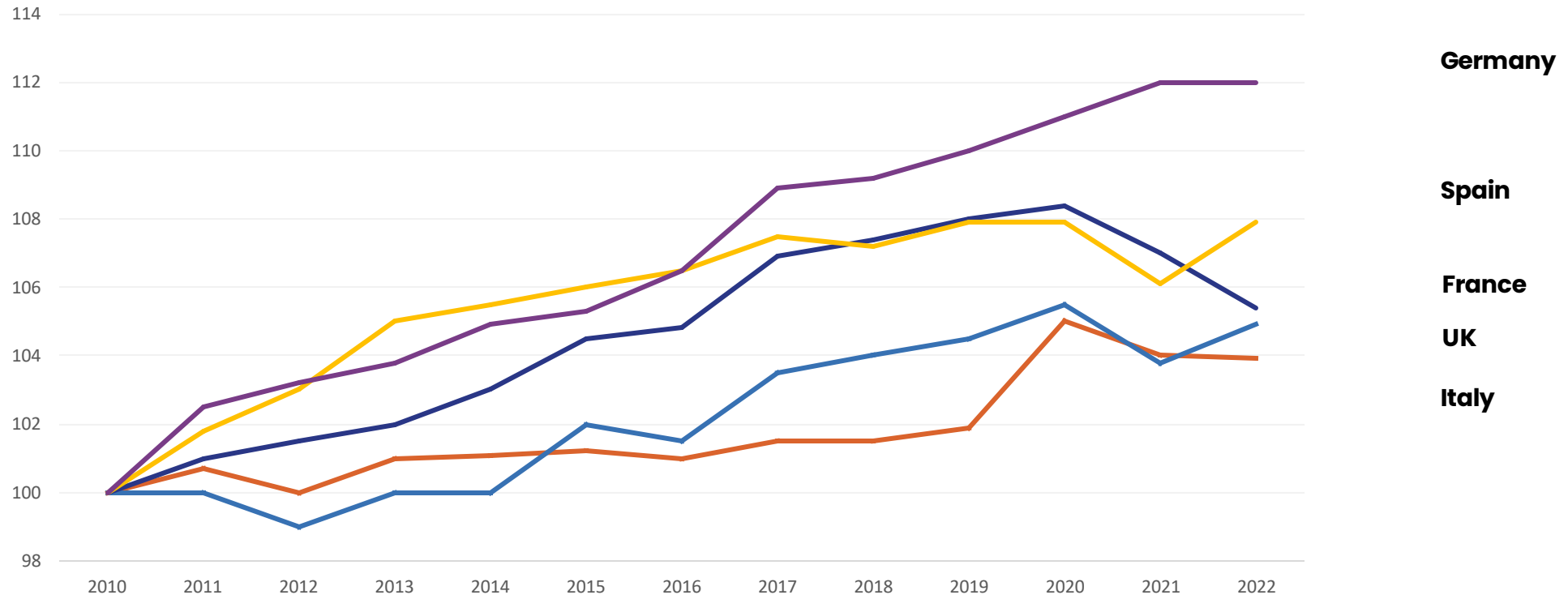
UK productivity growth since 1971

With trend continuation from 2008 onwards



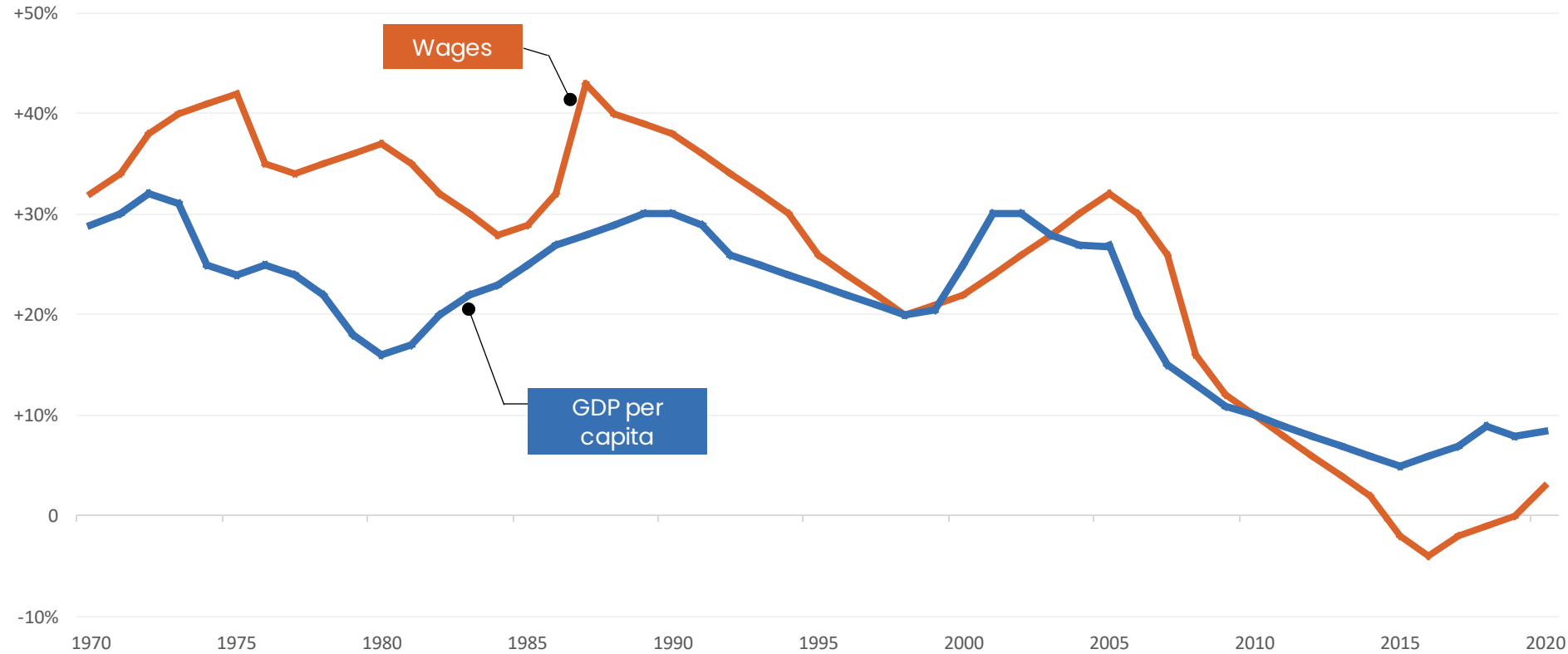
The UK has experienced the second weakest productivity growth of the major European economies since 2010

GDP per hour worked, 2010 = 100



Workers in the UK started to become relatively poorer before the global financial crisis in 2008

Annual decadal growth rates of real wages and real GDP per capita: GB/UK

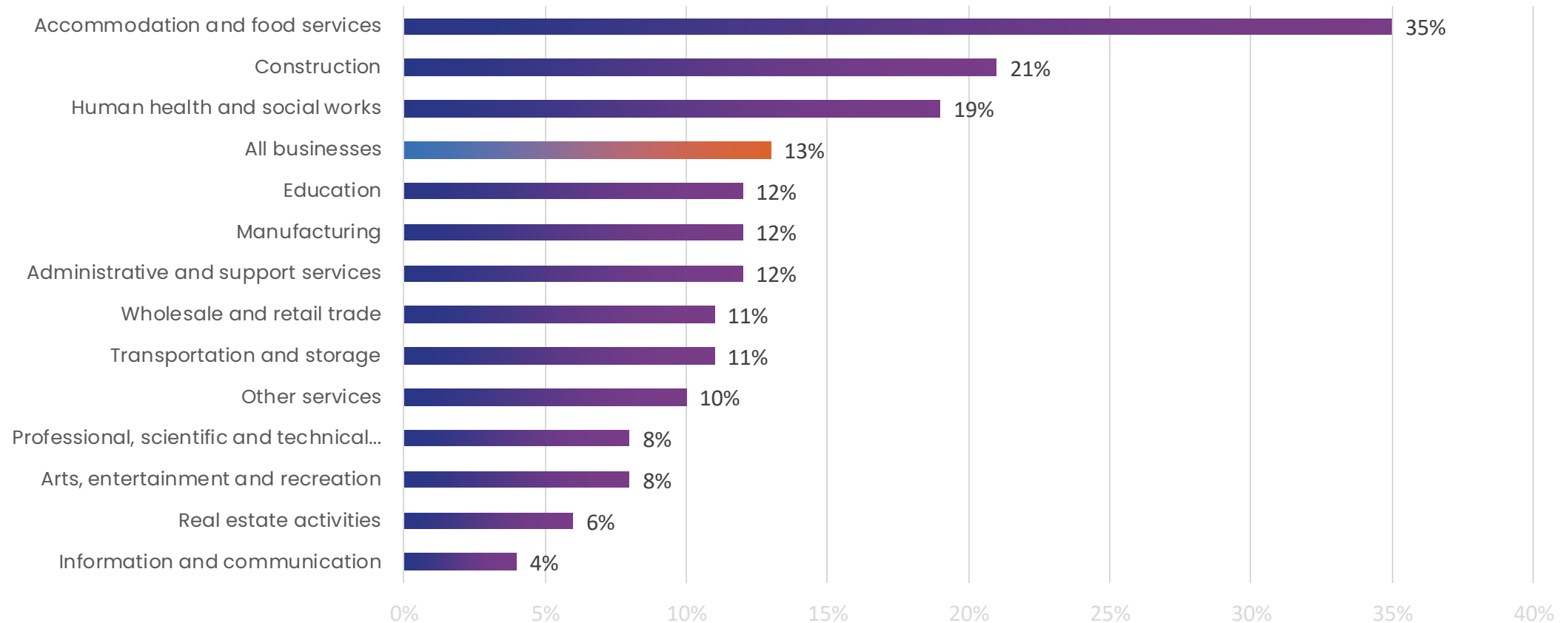


© The Economy 2030 Inquiry economy2030.resolutionfoundation.org

Notes: Rolling average of each variable in the three years centred on the date shown, compared to the three years centred on the date 10 years previous. For example, 2020 shows growth between 2009-2011. UK data for GDP, GB data for wages. Source: Analysis of Bank of England, Millennium of macroeconomic Data: OBR, Economic and Fiscal Outlook—March 2023; ONS, RHDI; ONS, UK resident population.

Businesses experiencing a shortage of workers

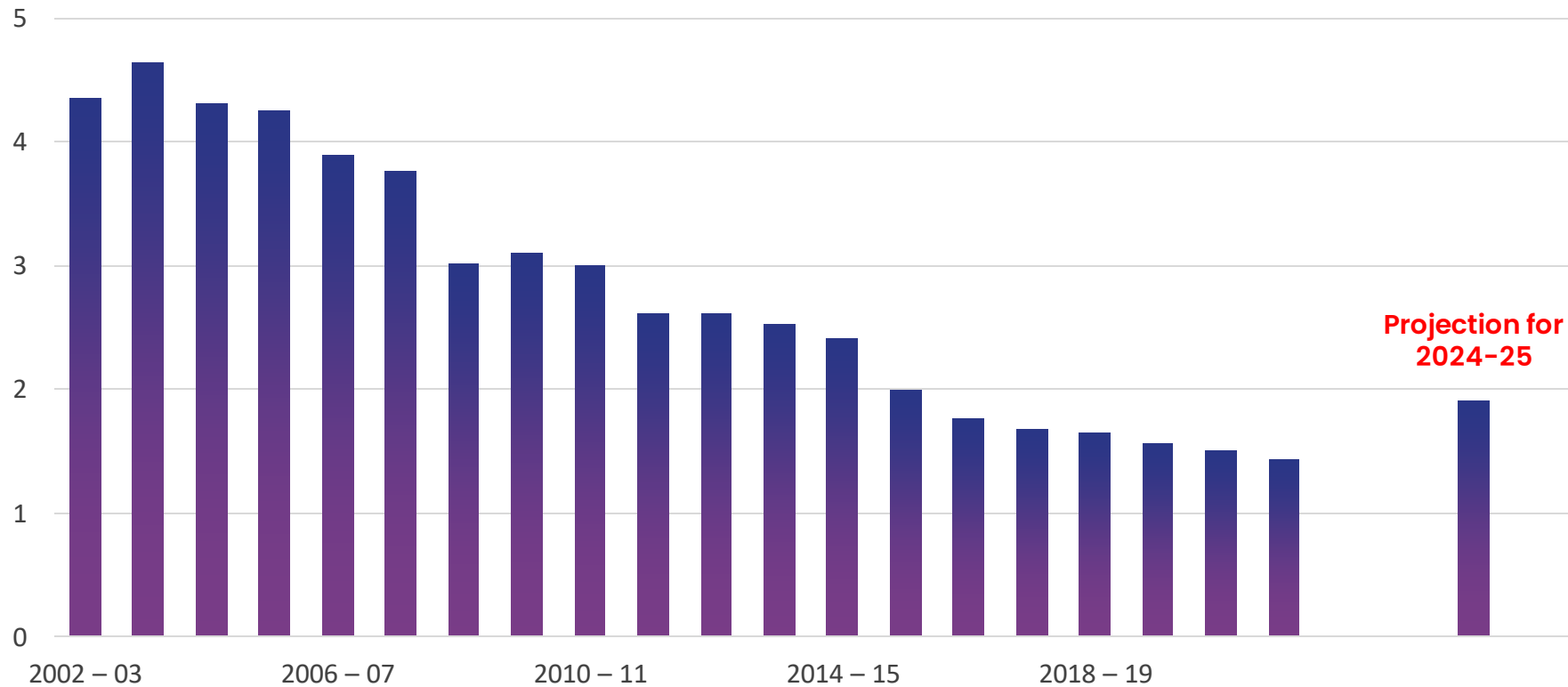
14-27 November 2022



Source: ONS, Business insights and impact on the UK economy, 1 December 2022

Adult FE spending is down by two-thirds since 2003-04

Classroom-based adult education in England, £ billion 2022-23 prices

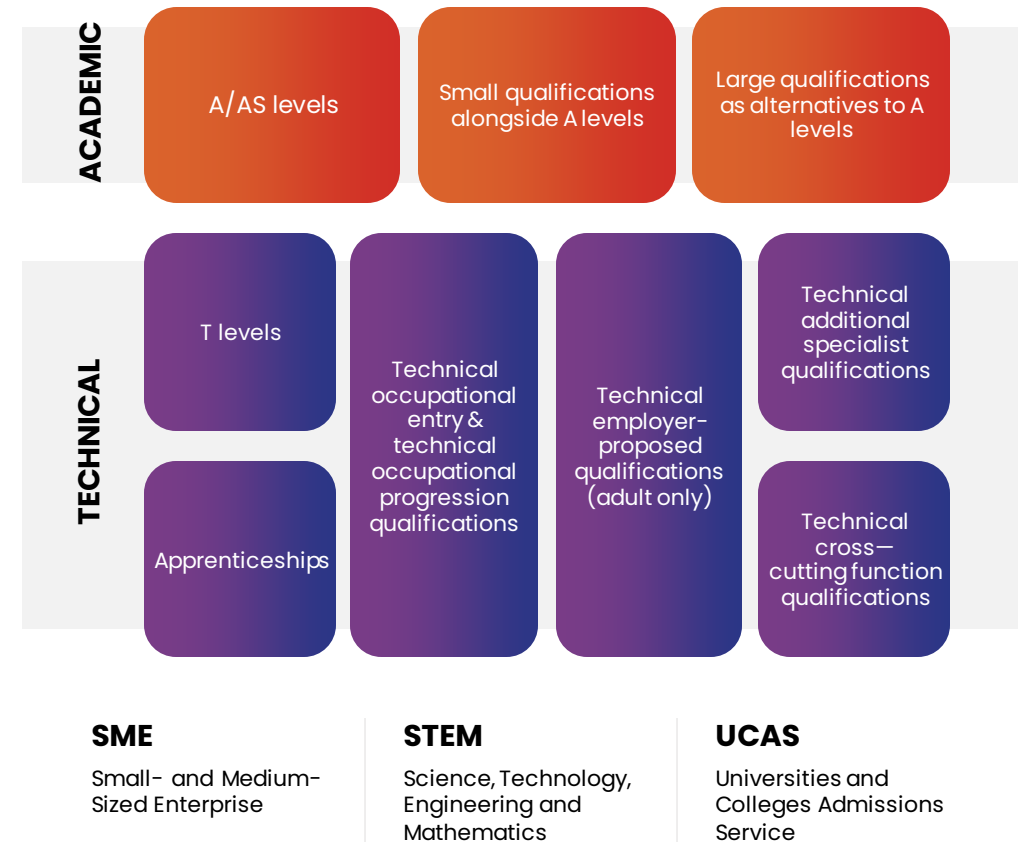


Source: IFS, Further education and skills (2 August 2022)

Planned post-2025 qualifications landscape at level 3

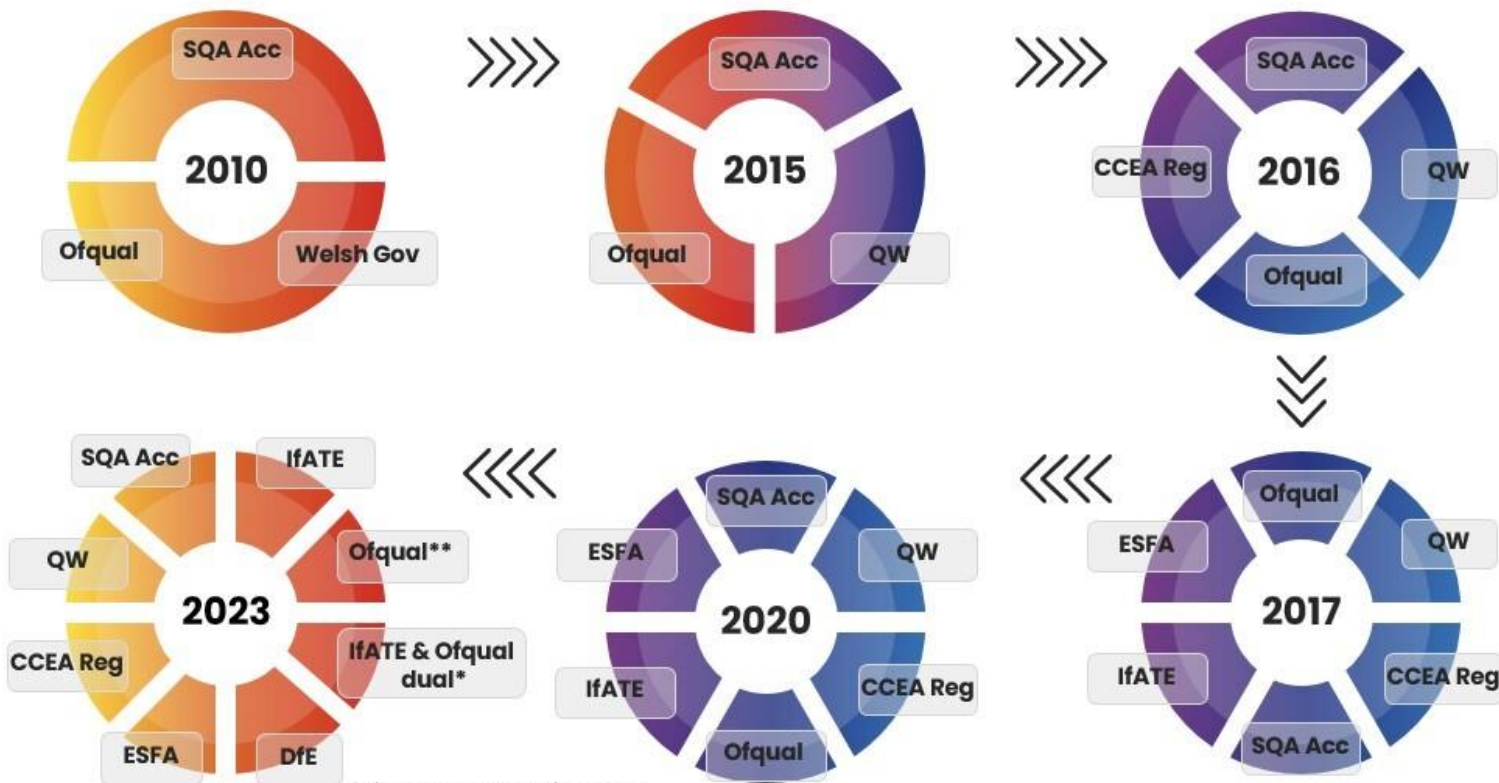
2023-2033

Advanced British Standard (ABS)



Source: Department for Education (England)

The growing regulatory burden and divergence in tertiary education and qualifications since 2010



*Plus pre-approval process
 **Plus reporting of ESFA funding removal

- SQA Acc** –
Scottish Qualifications Authority Accreditation.
- QW** –
Qualifications Wales. QW was established in 2015, fulfilling the regulatory role previously undertaken by the Welsh Government.
- CCEA Reg** –
Council for Curriculum Exams & Assessment Regulation.
- ESFA** –
Education & Skills Funding Agency.
- IfATE** –
Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education.

'Pinch Points' for a new Government

Public Spending constraints

How to enrich Skills across the UK

UK Plc needs an integrated skills plan

Cross-departmental coordination

Focus Civil Service on policy

'Top-down' skills policy and programme delivery has not worked

Focus of welfare system from 'work first' to 'train first'



Which means we should:

- Embrace the full dimension of UK skills development.
- Foster collaboration across departments for effective skill-building initiatives.
- Adopt a collaborative approach to skills policy and programme implementation.
- Prioritise training as a cornerstone of welfare system reform.
- Ensure equitable access to the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) for all.

Core issues for AOs:

- Recognition of the quality & impact of AOs on learners, ITPs, Colleges & Schools
- Implications of the changes in the 'machinery of government'
- Qualifications reform & effect on learners
- Future of the Apprenticeship levy
- The complexity and cost of regulation



FAB dates for your diary:

- **EPA 2024 Conference & Exhibition**
01 July, Warwick University
- **FAB Manifesto Member Meeting**
16 May, Virtual
- **FAB 2024 Conference, Exhibition & Awards**
25 & 26 November, Leicester Marriott Hotel



Thanks for listening!

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