

The inegalitarian syndrome and the exhaustion of labour

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- Wages income and wealth inequalities Atkinson
- Economic crisis Galbraith

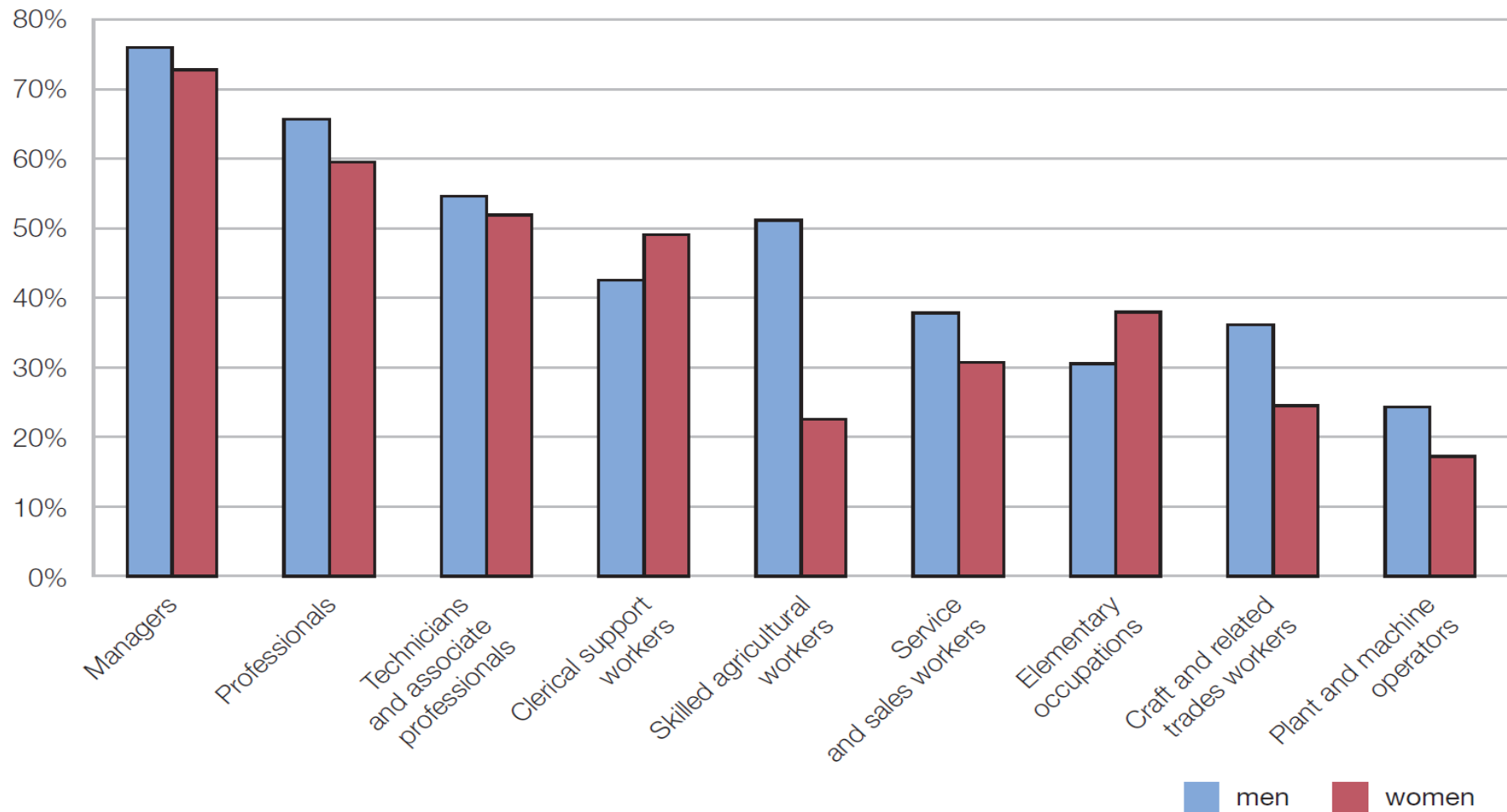
- Work inequality is multidimensional: wages, employment status, working conditions...

- A potential common disease: the exhaustion of labour

Large inequality in working conditions

Procedural autonomy by detailed occupation and gender

EU 27, European Working Conditions Survey 2010

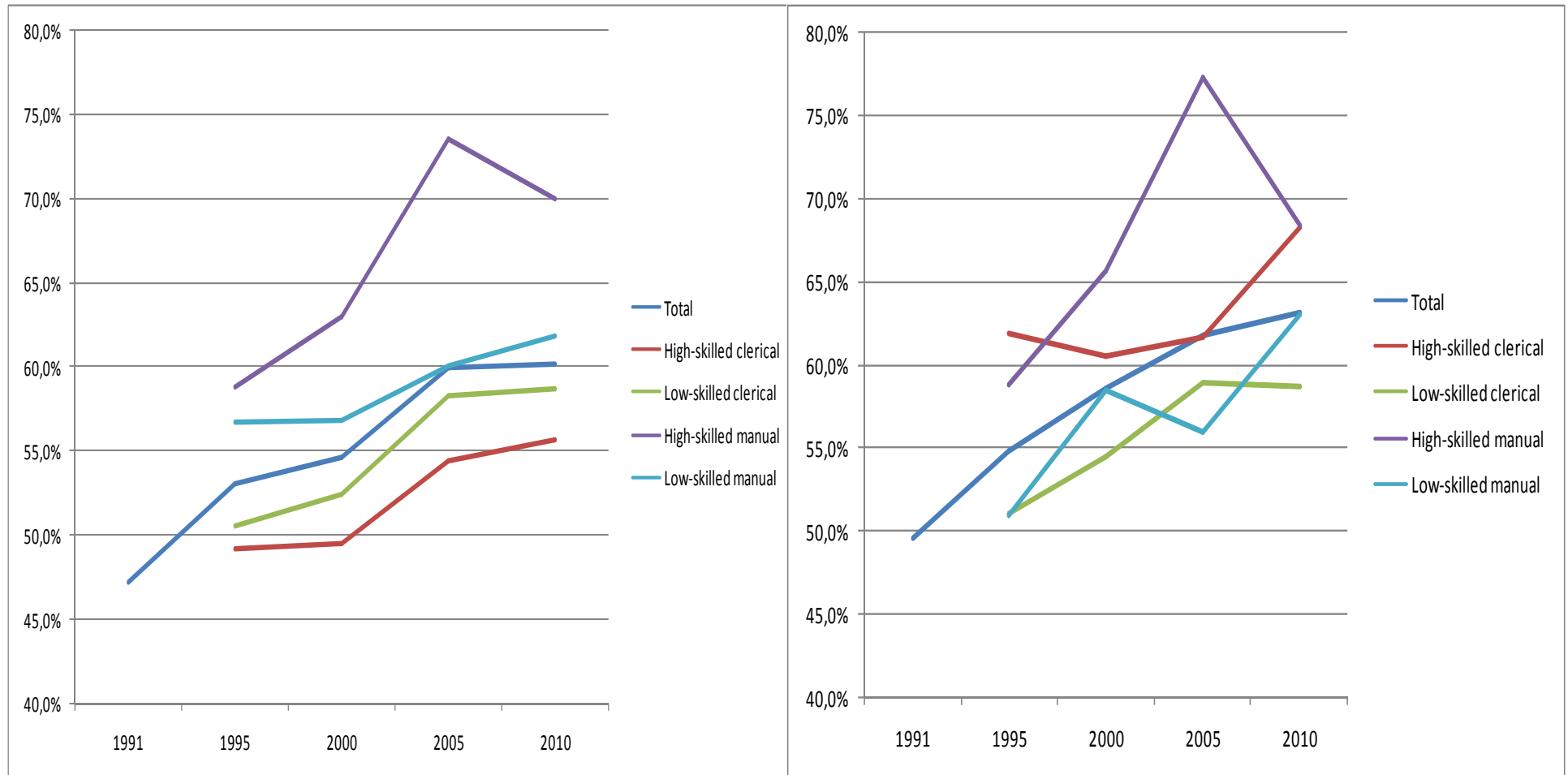


Work intensification

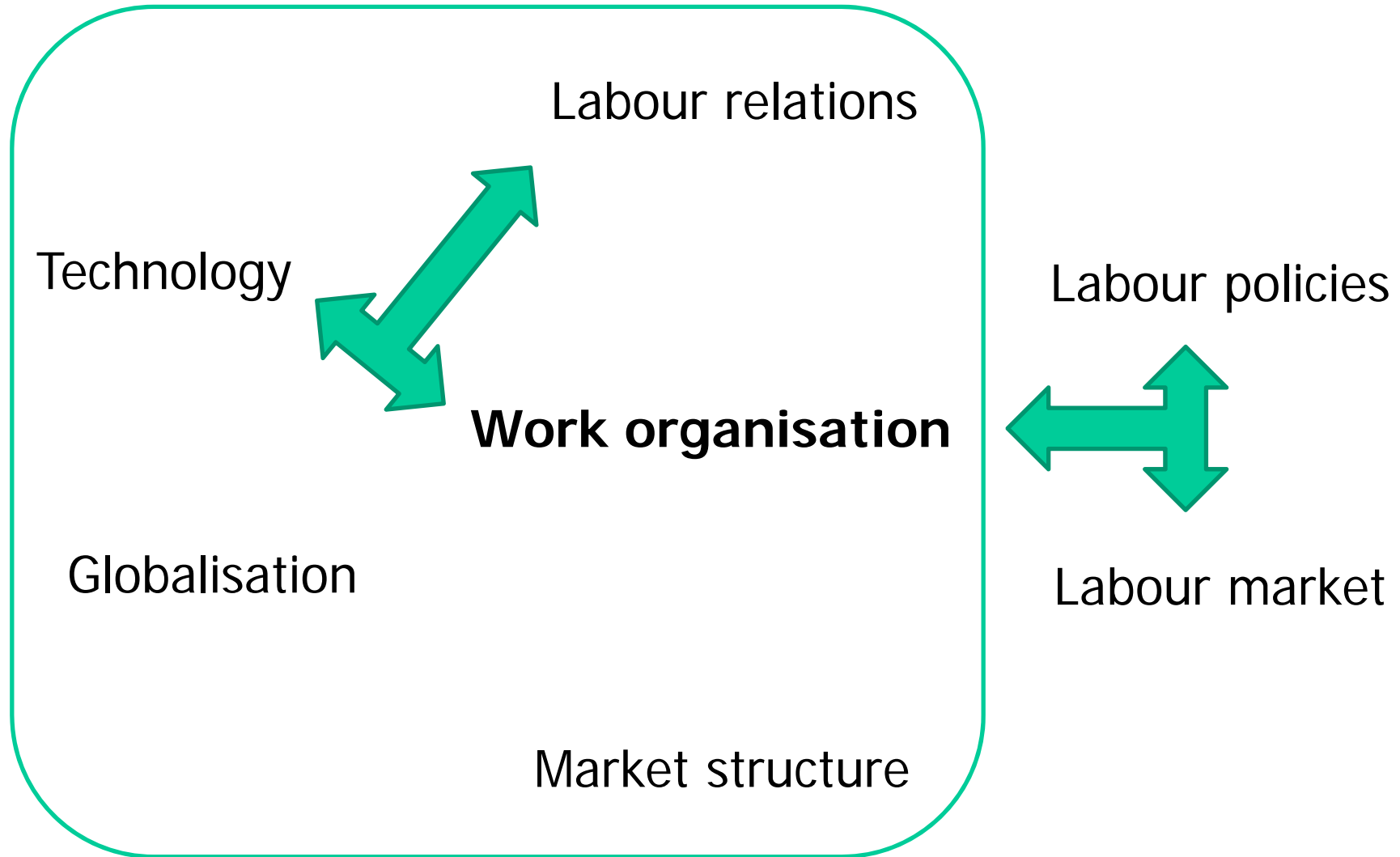
Working at very high speed

to tight deadlines

At least a quarter of the time. EC12 EWCS 1991-2010



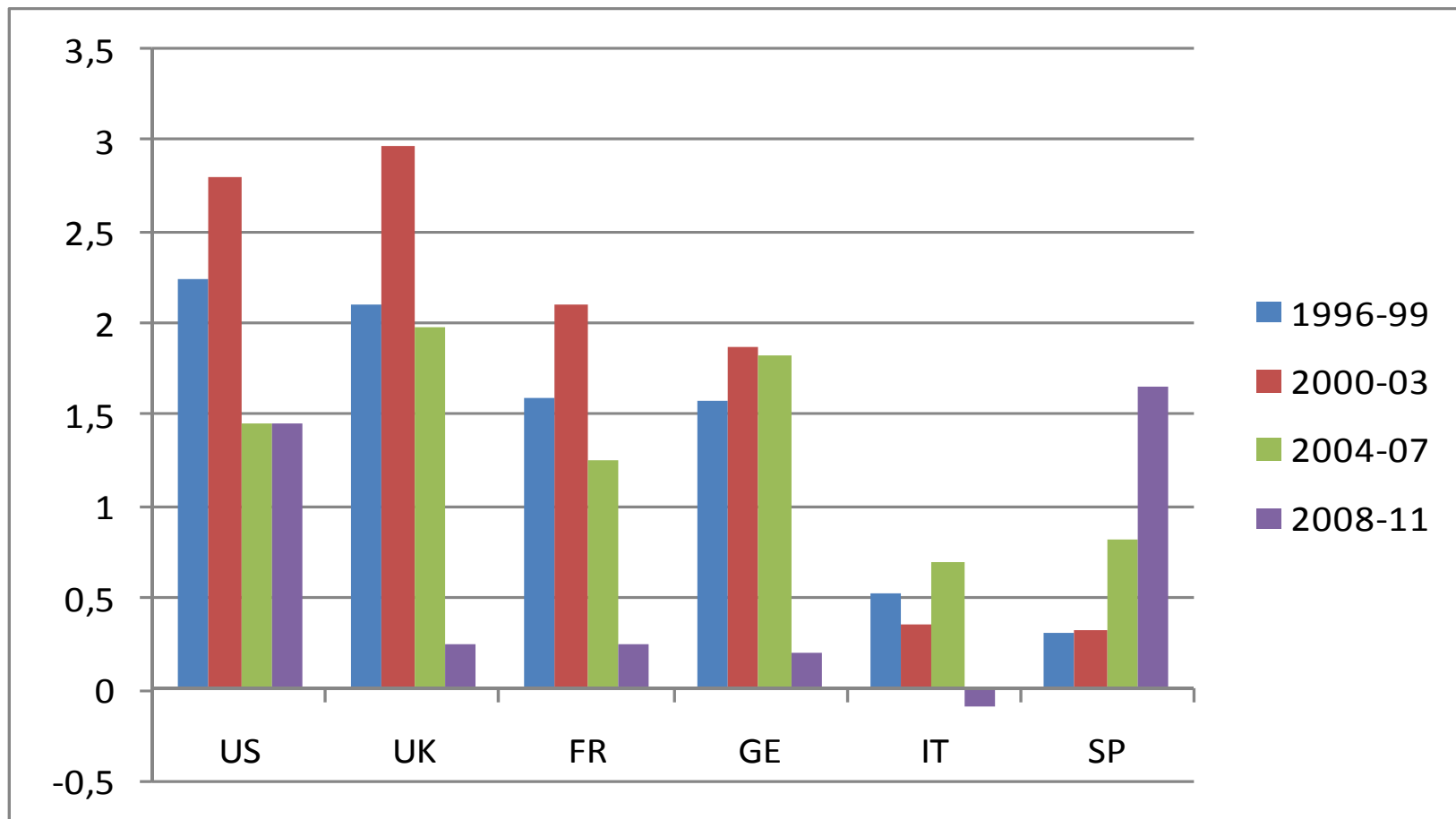
The productive model and its interactions



Productivity growth based on intensification and flexibility is –at best- bounded

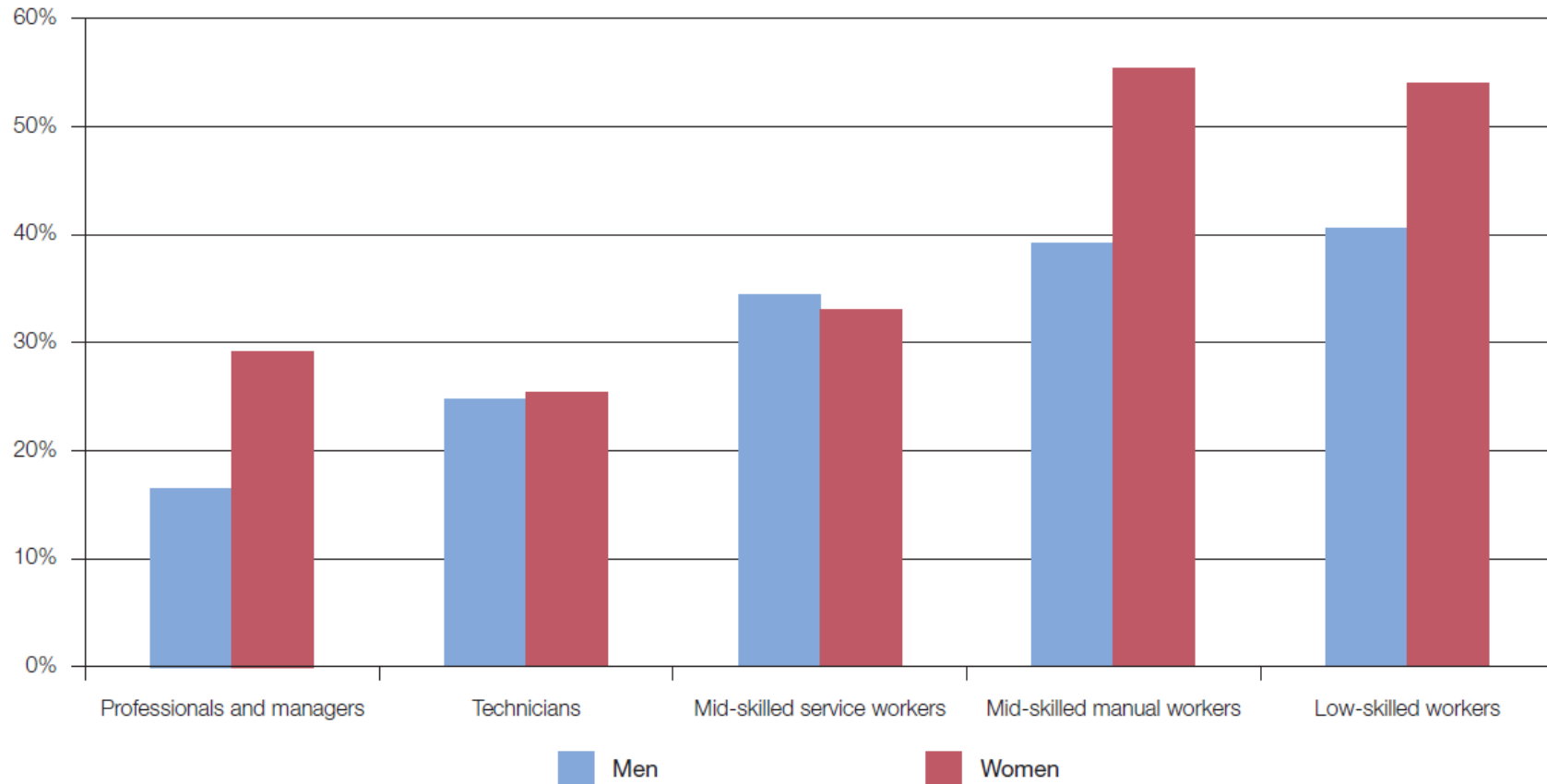
Labour productivity annual growth. 1995-2011

Selected countries, OECD



From intensification to exhaustion

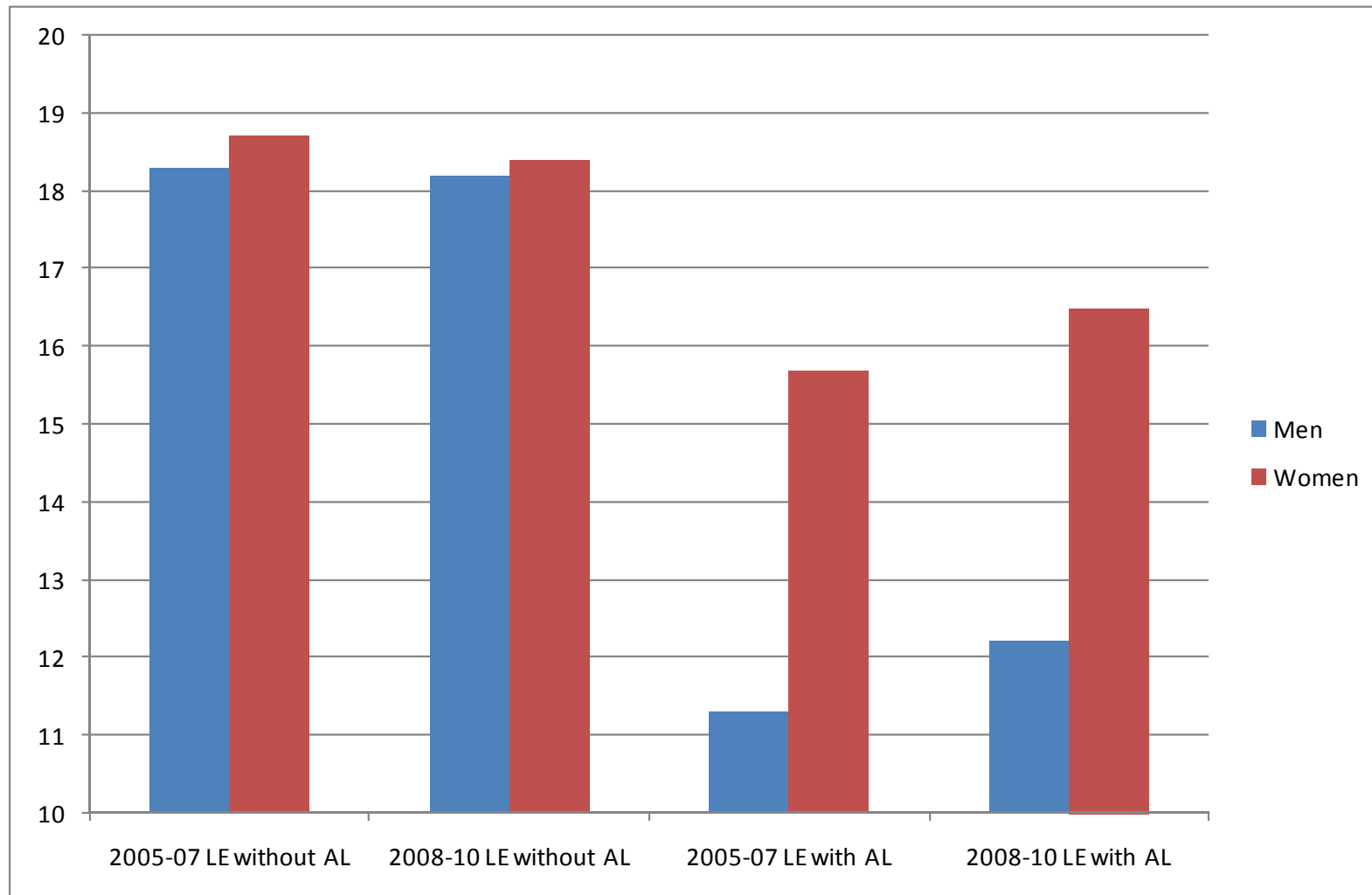
Job unsustainability. EU27, ECWS 2010



Percentage of workers aged 50–54 who do not think they will be able to do the same job when 60, by gender and occupation

From intensification to exhaustion

Life expectancy at 50 with and without activity limitation.
2005-07 and 2008-10. EU15, SILC-Eurostat



Symptoms:

Income/wealth inequality and economic crisis

- Weakening position of most workers (+ in some countries productivity gains) = rents extracted from labour
- Capture of rents
- => Rising income and wealth inequalities

- Large wealth inequality + exhaustion of the productive model = search for sources of profits
- => boom of finance, bubbles...
- => inefficient allocation of investments

Symptoms:

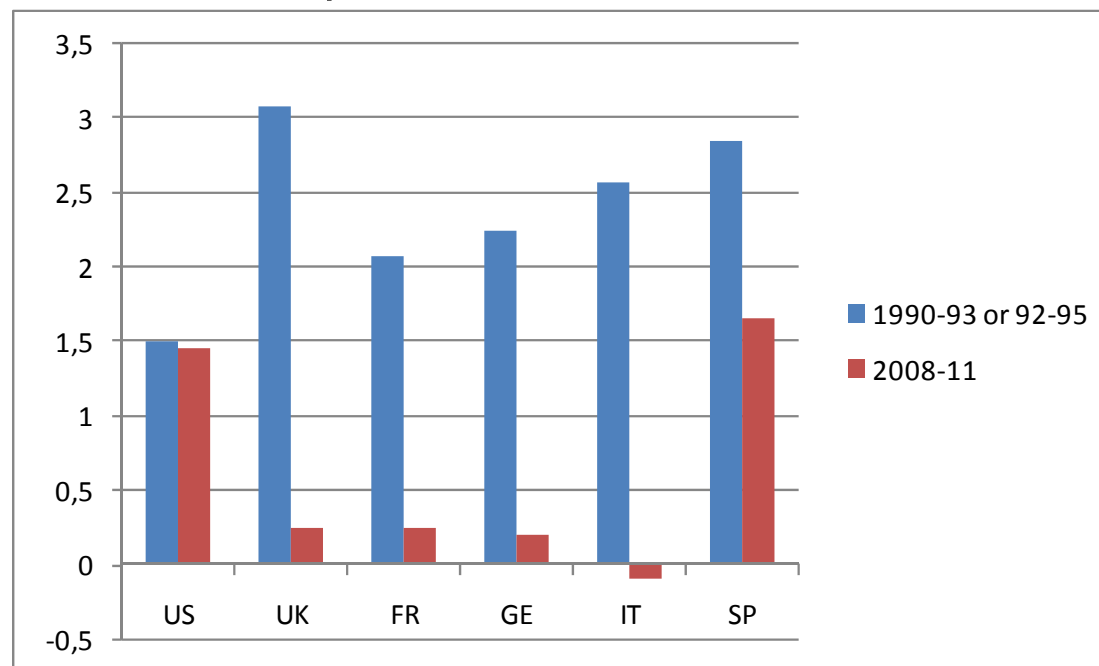
Income/wealth inequality and economic crisis

- Poor growth perspectives
- => doubts on the sustainability of sovereign debts and welfare states

The European response

- Austerity => no demand
- ECB and BoE flood markets => poor cleansing effect of recession
- => null productivity growth

Labour productivity annual growth: the Great Recession *versus* the previous recession in the 90's



The European response

- => short term: “low” unemployment except for youth
- => short term: apparent success of some “structural” reforms, e.g. pension schemes
- => short term: social and political sustainability of an economic suicide?

Towards a new productive model?

Productivity growth based on intensification and flexibility is –at best- bounded

Labour productivity annual growth. 1995-2011

Selected countries (including Sweden and Denmark), OECD

