

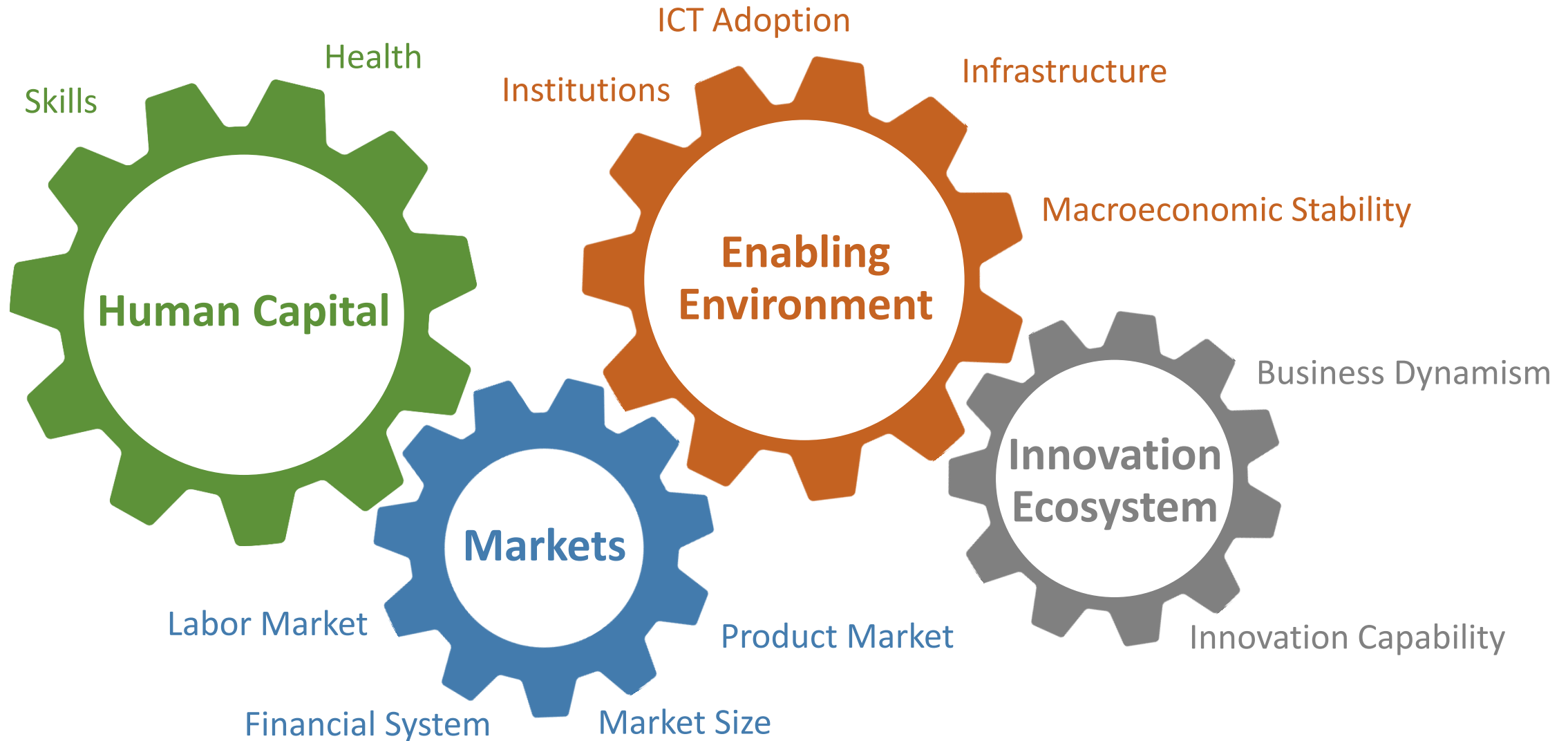
เราไปได้ไกลกว่านี้ไหม มุมมองจากข้อมูลแรงงานและการจ้างงาน

Have We Reached Our Potential?  
A Perspective from Worker- and Firm- Level Data



|            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Sasiwimon  | Warunsiri Paweenawat  |
| Chinnawat  | Devahastin Na Ayudhya |
| Nada       | Wasi                  |
| Pucktada   | Treeratpituk          |
| Chommanart | Nittayo               |

# What drive competitiveness?



# Have we reached our potential?



## Labor Force Survey (LFS)



- National representative survey
- All sectors, including inactive

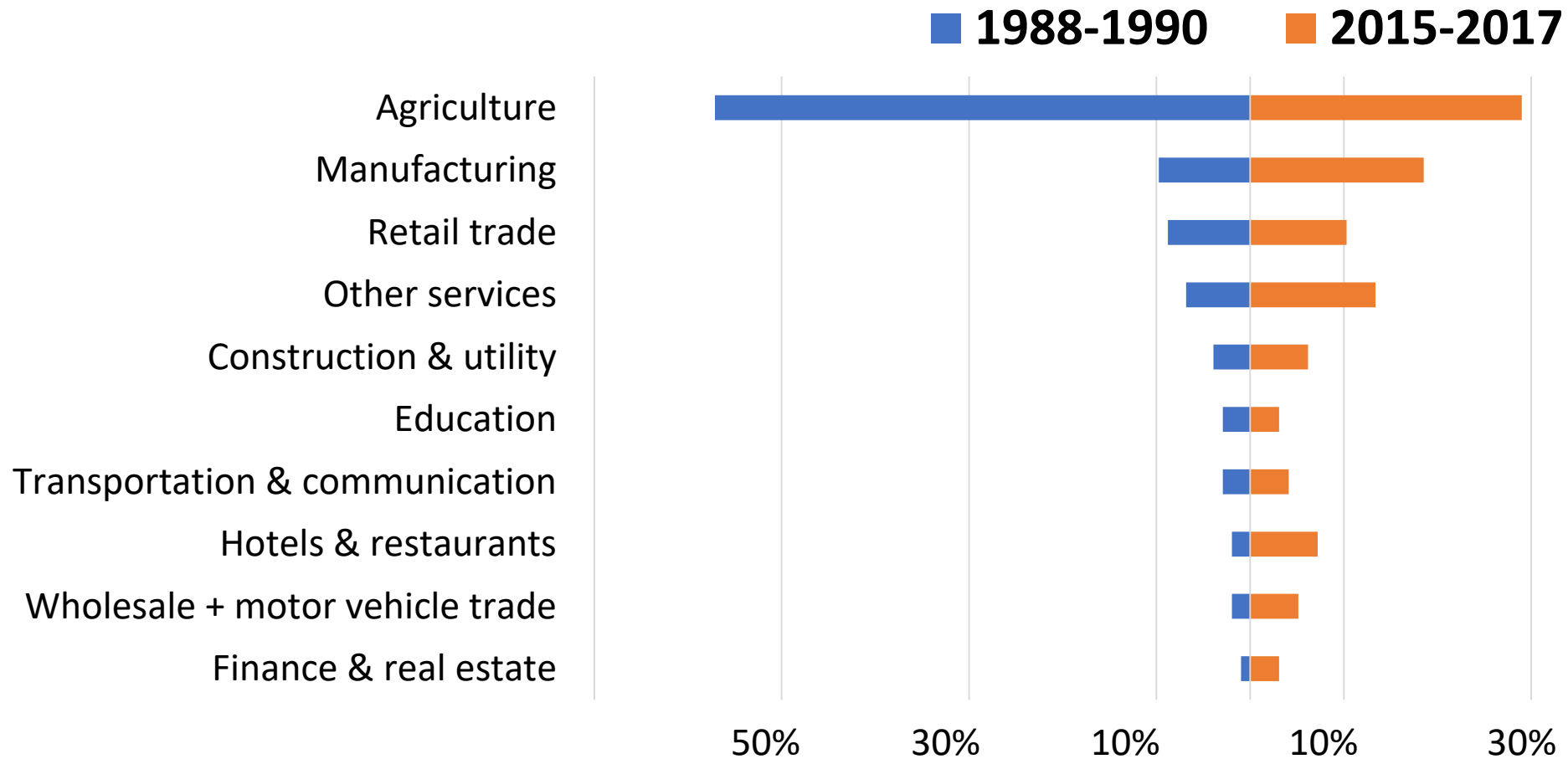
## Social Security Office (SSO)



- Administrative data
- Private sector employees

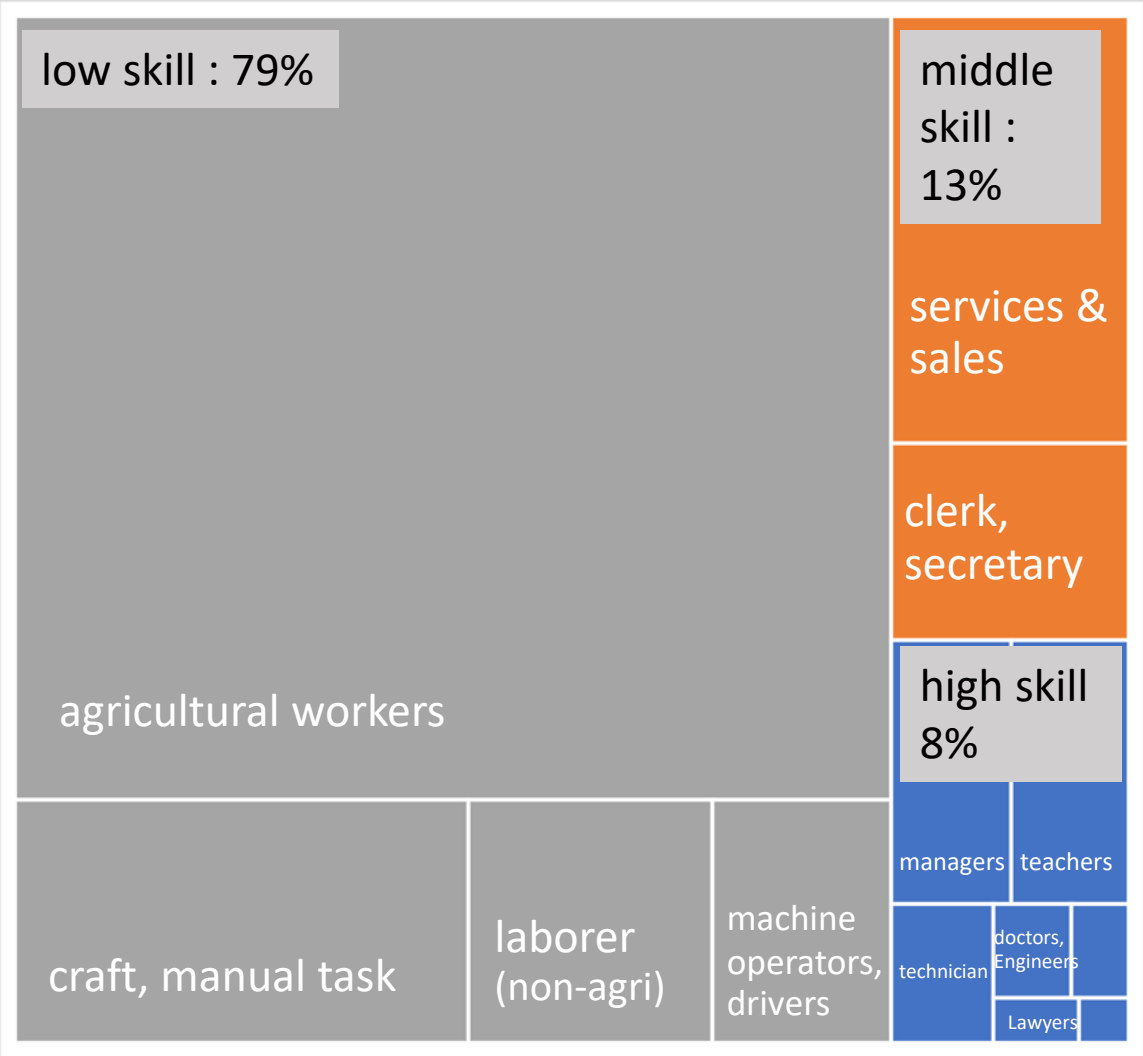
# The Landscape of the Thai Labor Market

# Industry employment shares



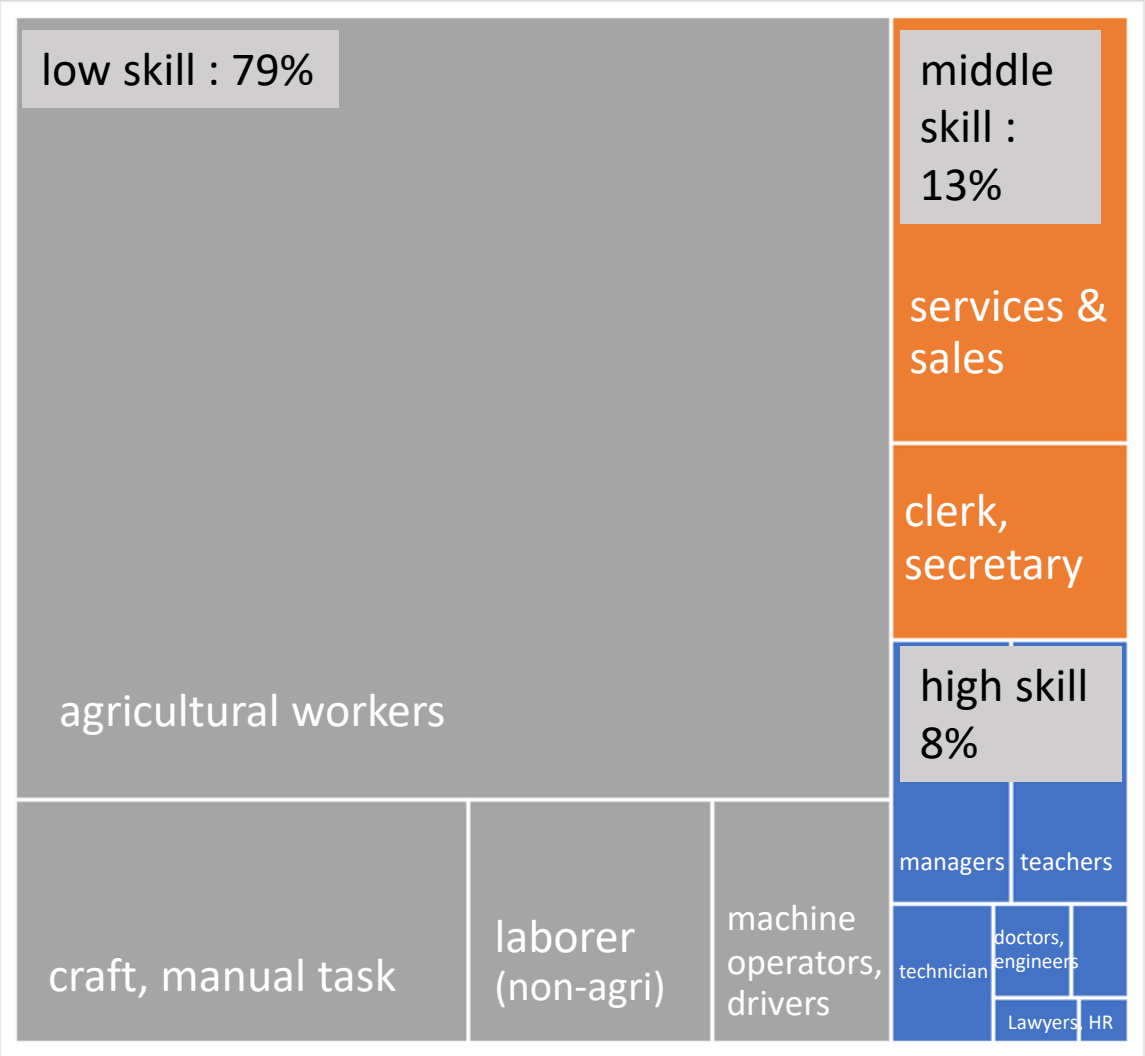
# 1988-1990: jobs were mostly low-skill

1988-1990

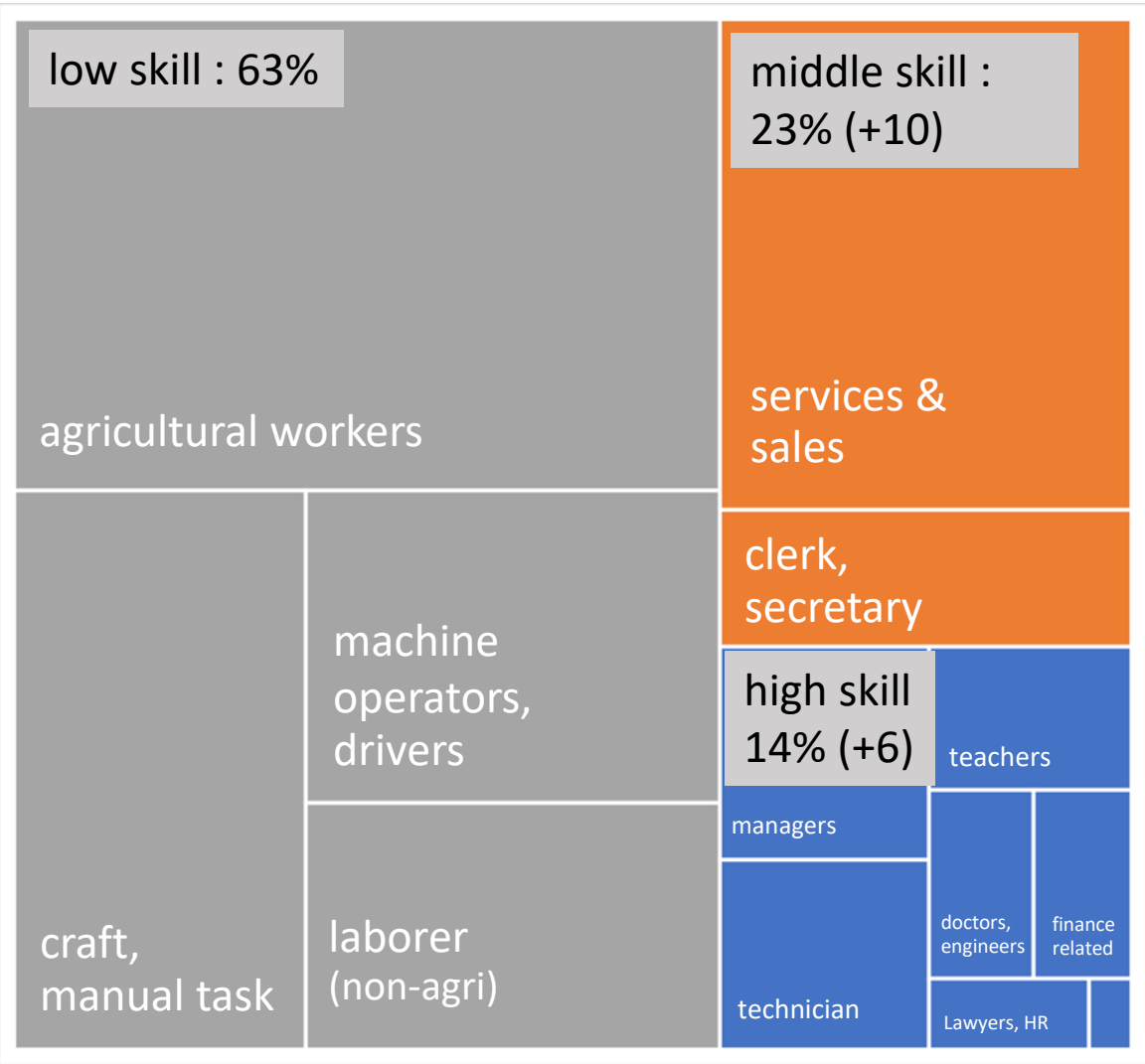


# 2015-2017: middle-skill & high-skill jobs moderately increased

1988-1990

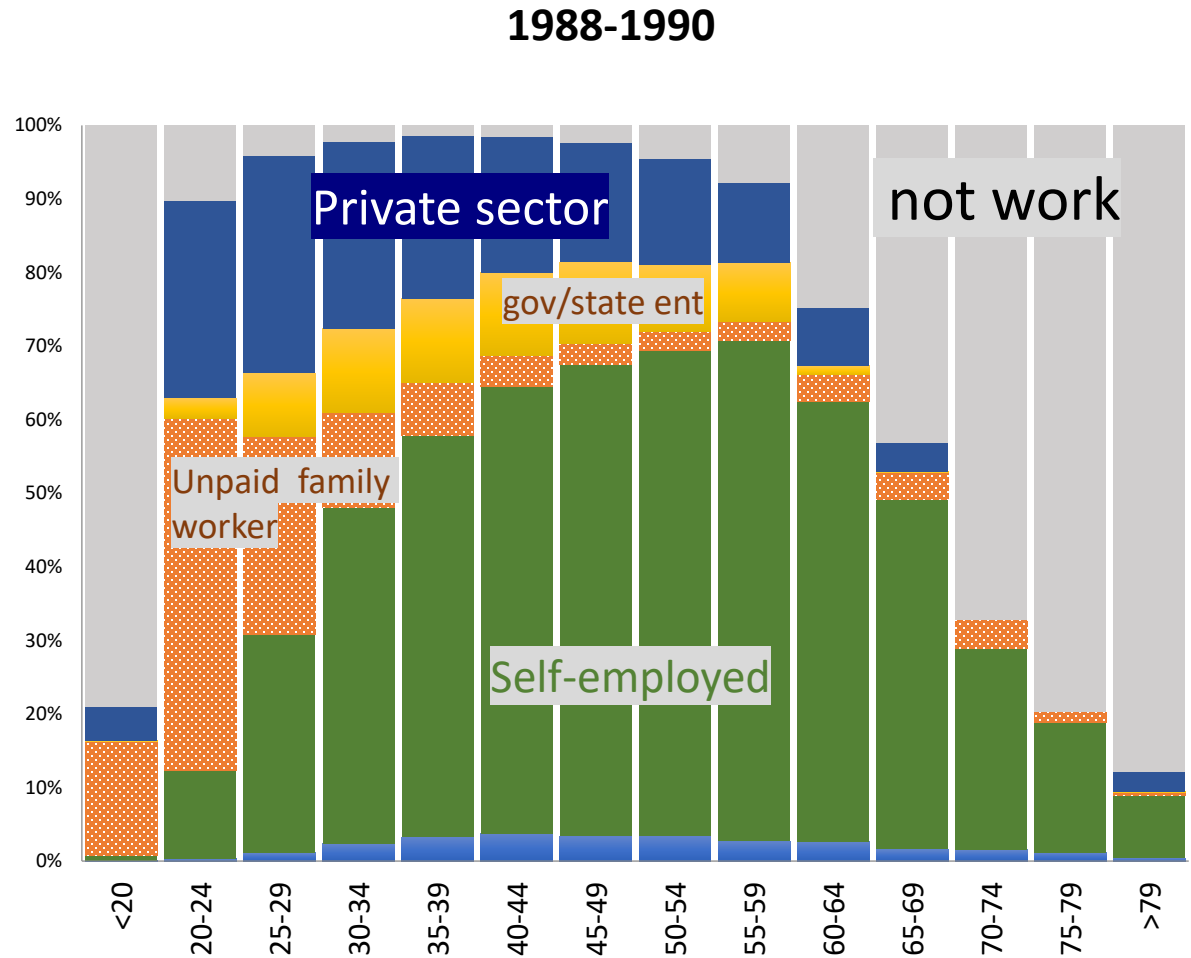


2015-2017





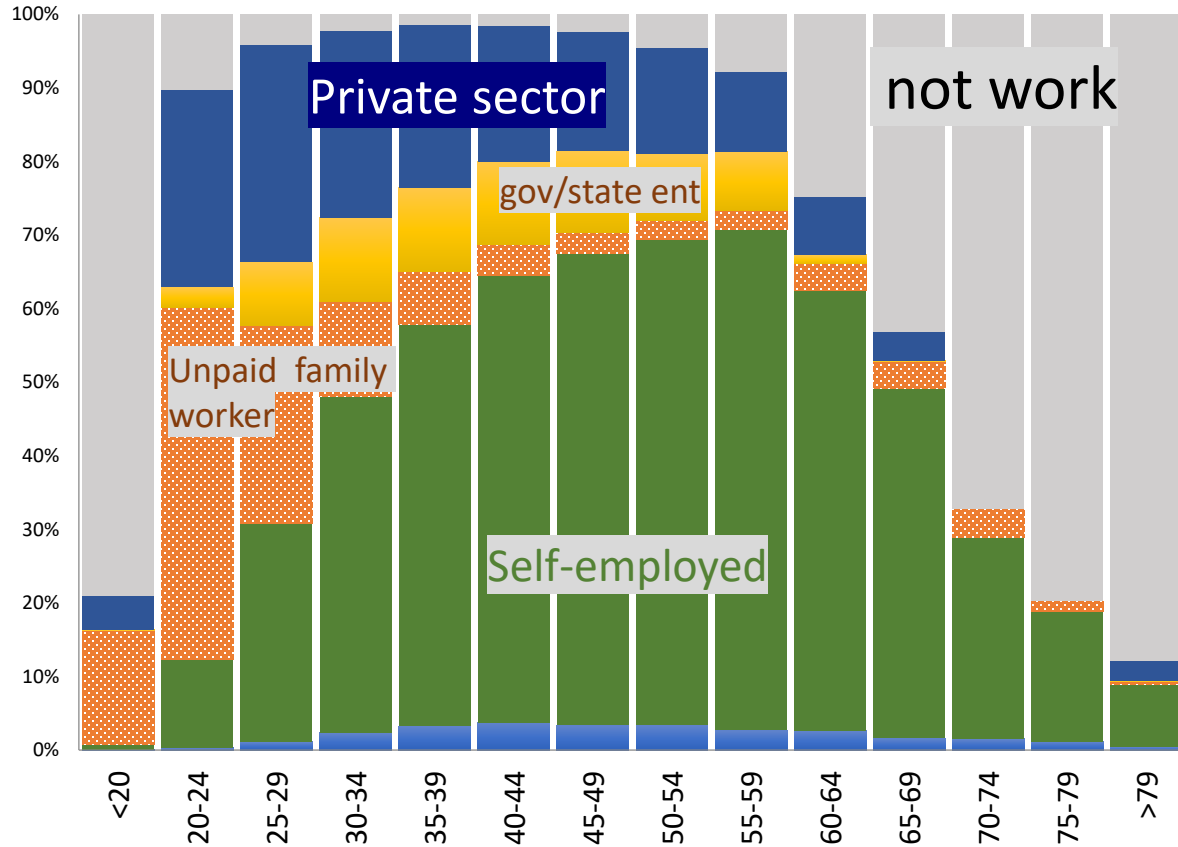
# 1988-1990: majority of workers were self-employed in agricultural sector



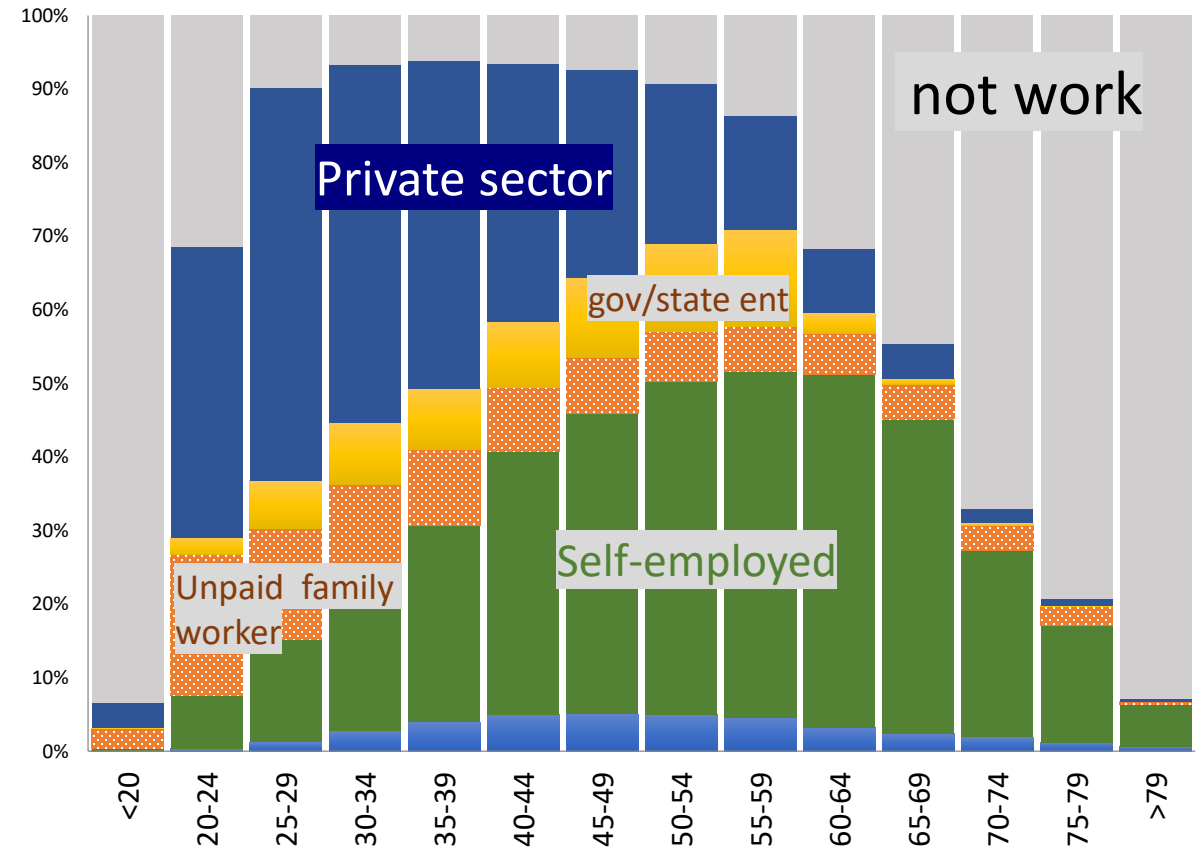
Working status over the life cycle (men)

# Work over the life-cycle in 1988-1990 vs. 2015-2017

1988-1990



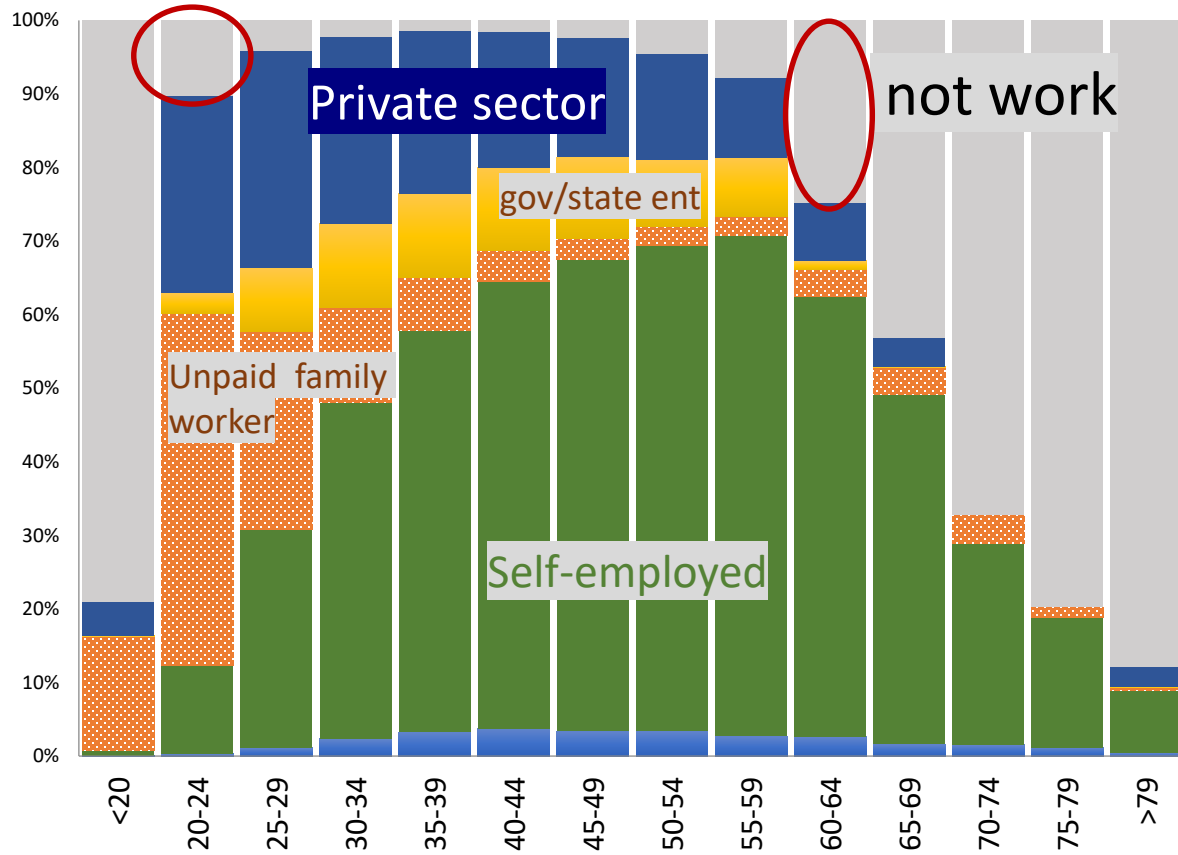
2015-2017



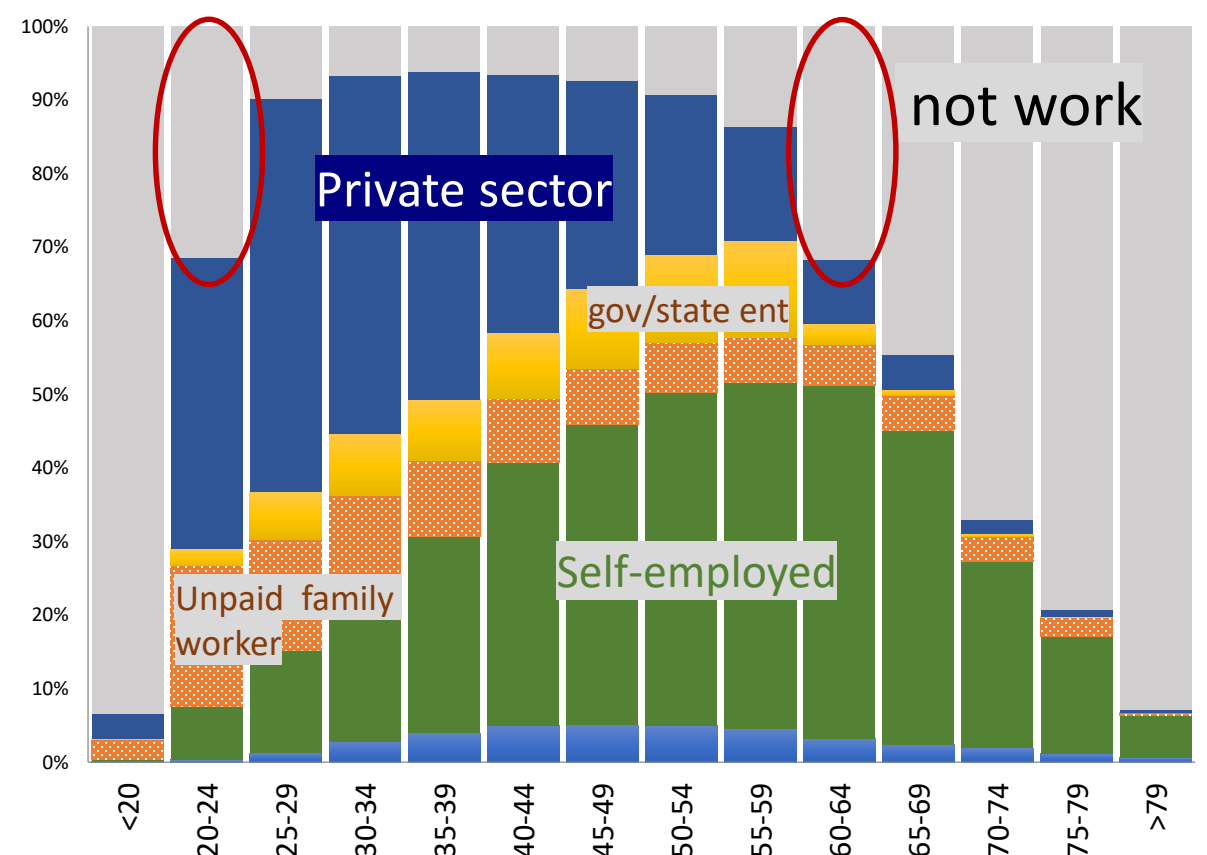
Working status over the life cycle (men)

# 2015-2017: entering the labor market later, retiring a little sooner

1988-1990



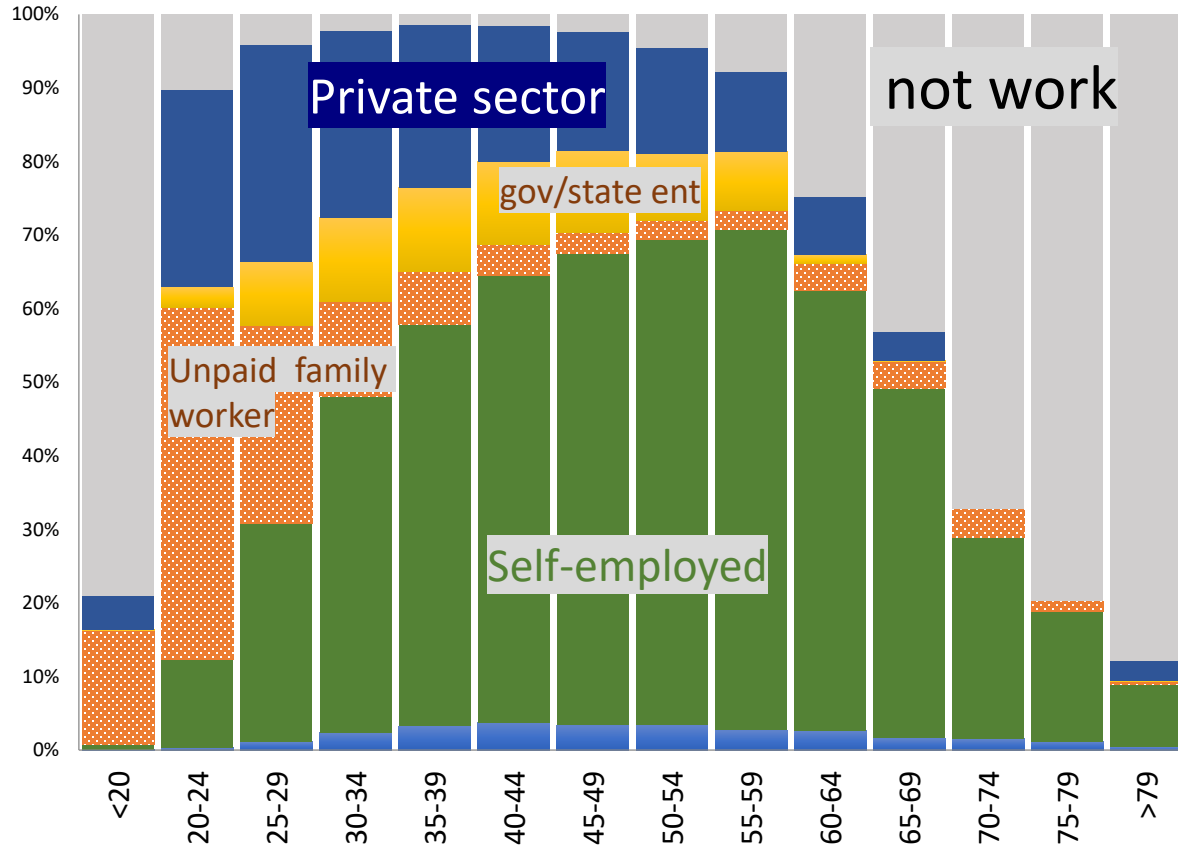
2015-2017



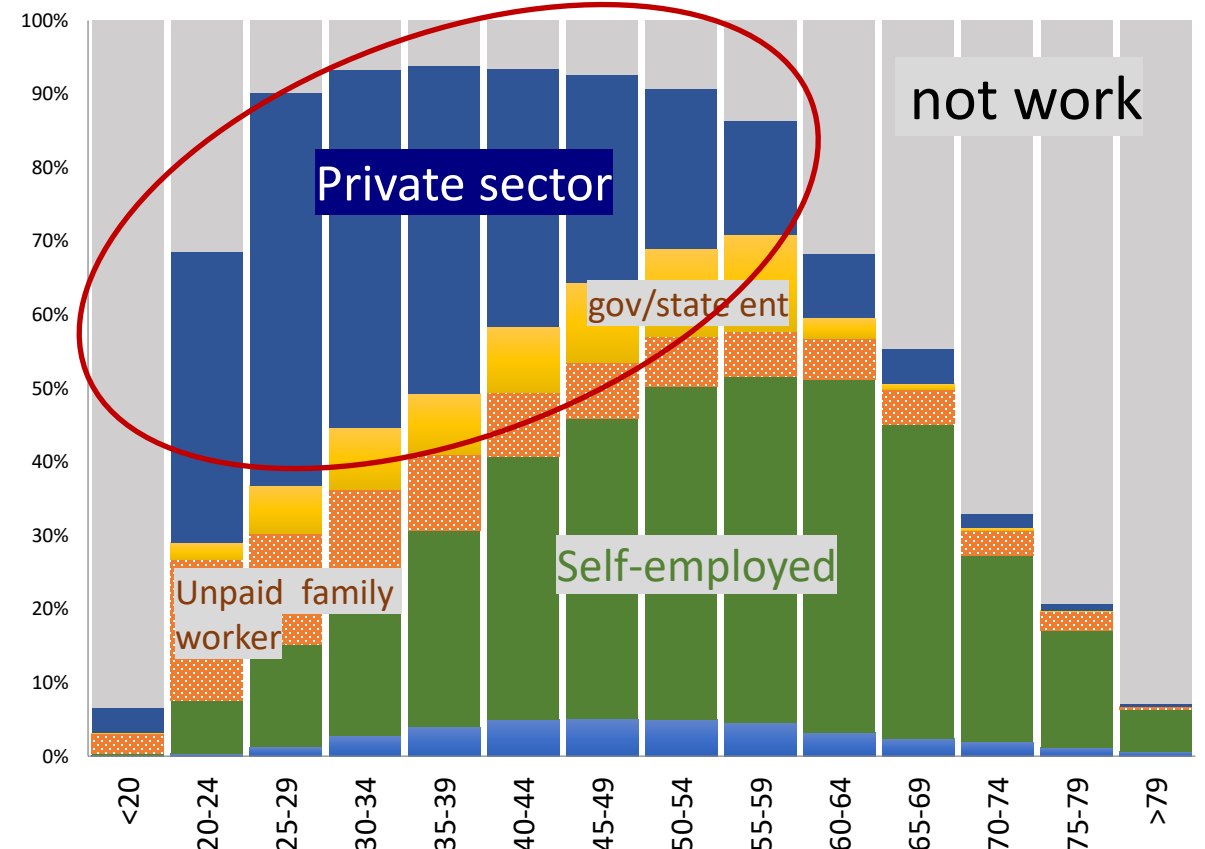
Working status over the life cycle (men)

# 2015-2017: private sector became more important

1988-1990

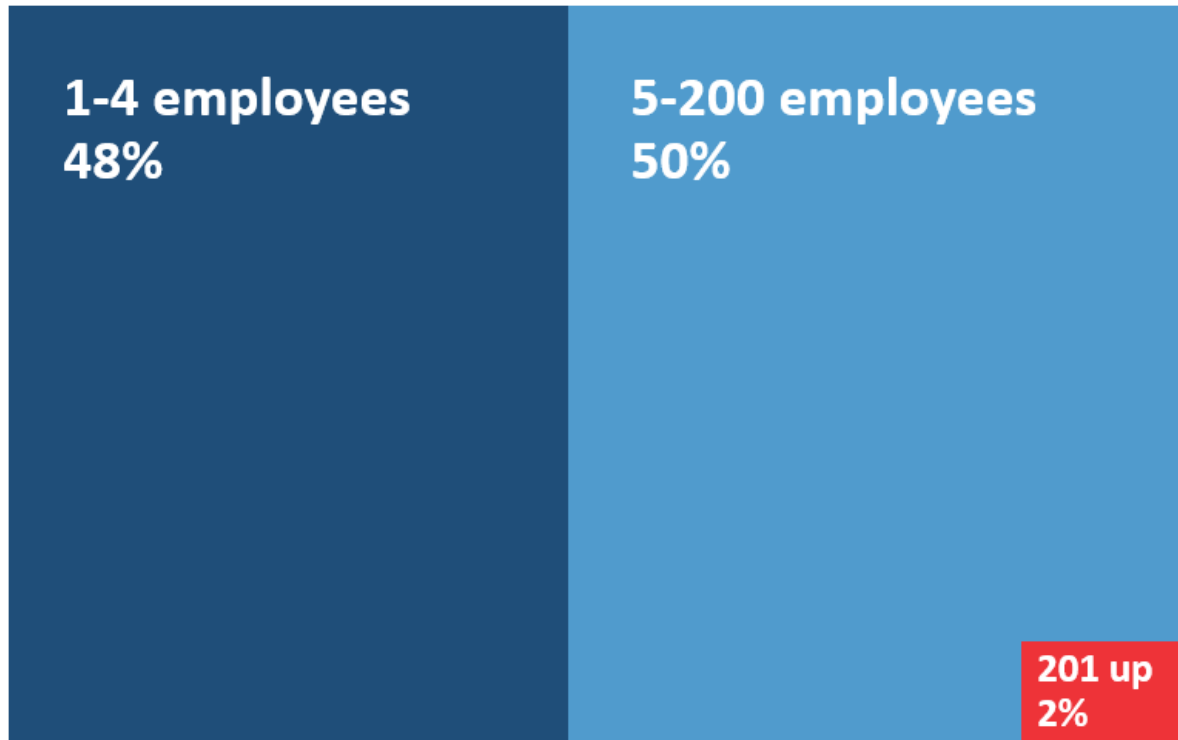


2015-2017



Working status over the life cycle (men)

# Almost 50% of firms are micro firms

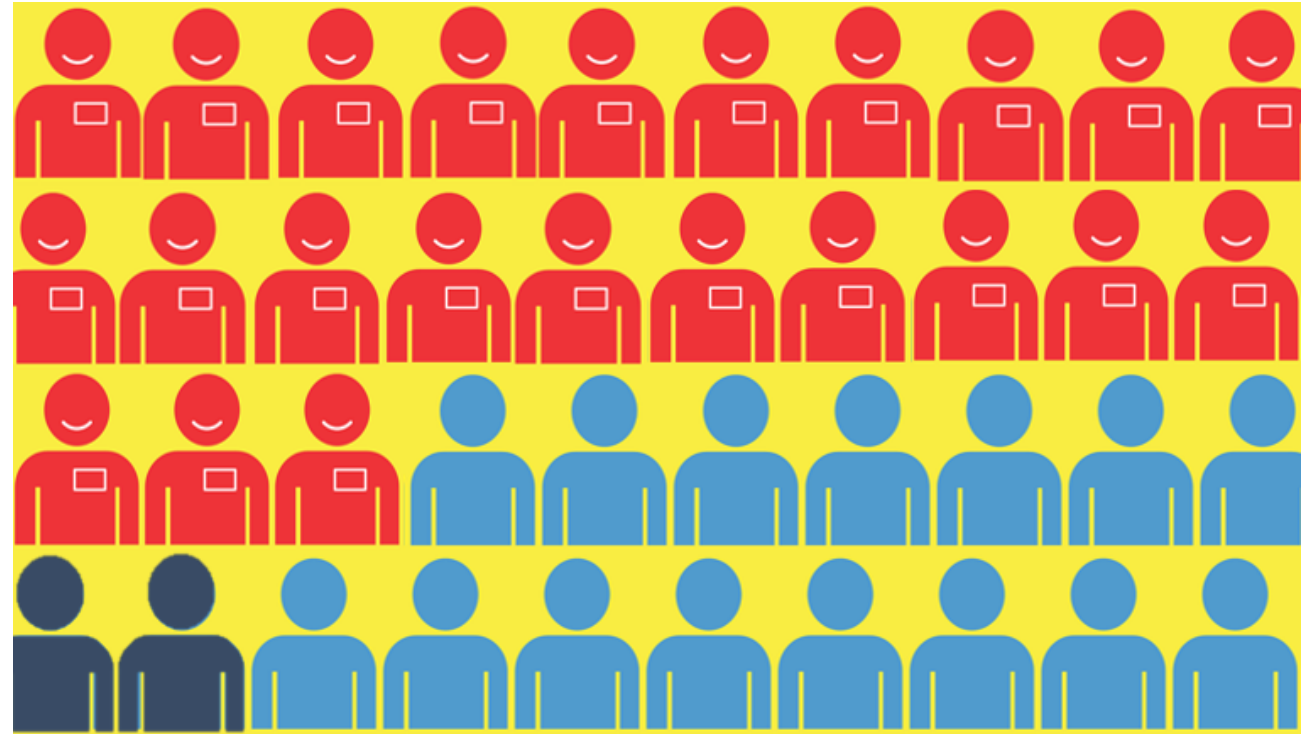


# Large firms (2%) hire 58% employees

1-4 employees  
48%

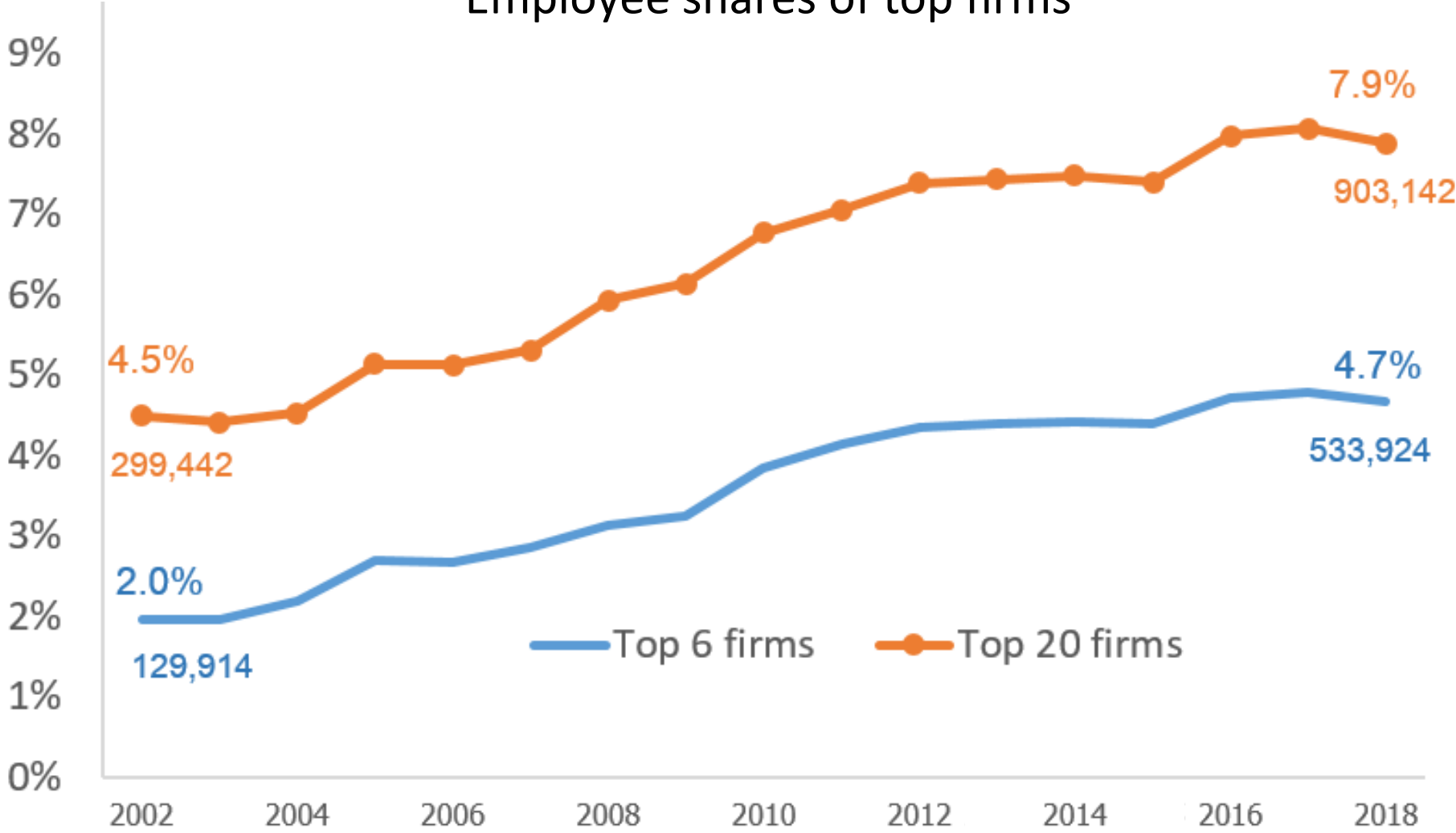
5-200 employees  
50%

201 up  
2%

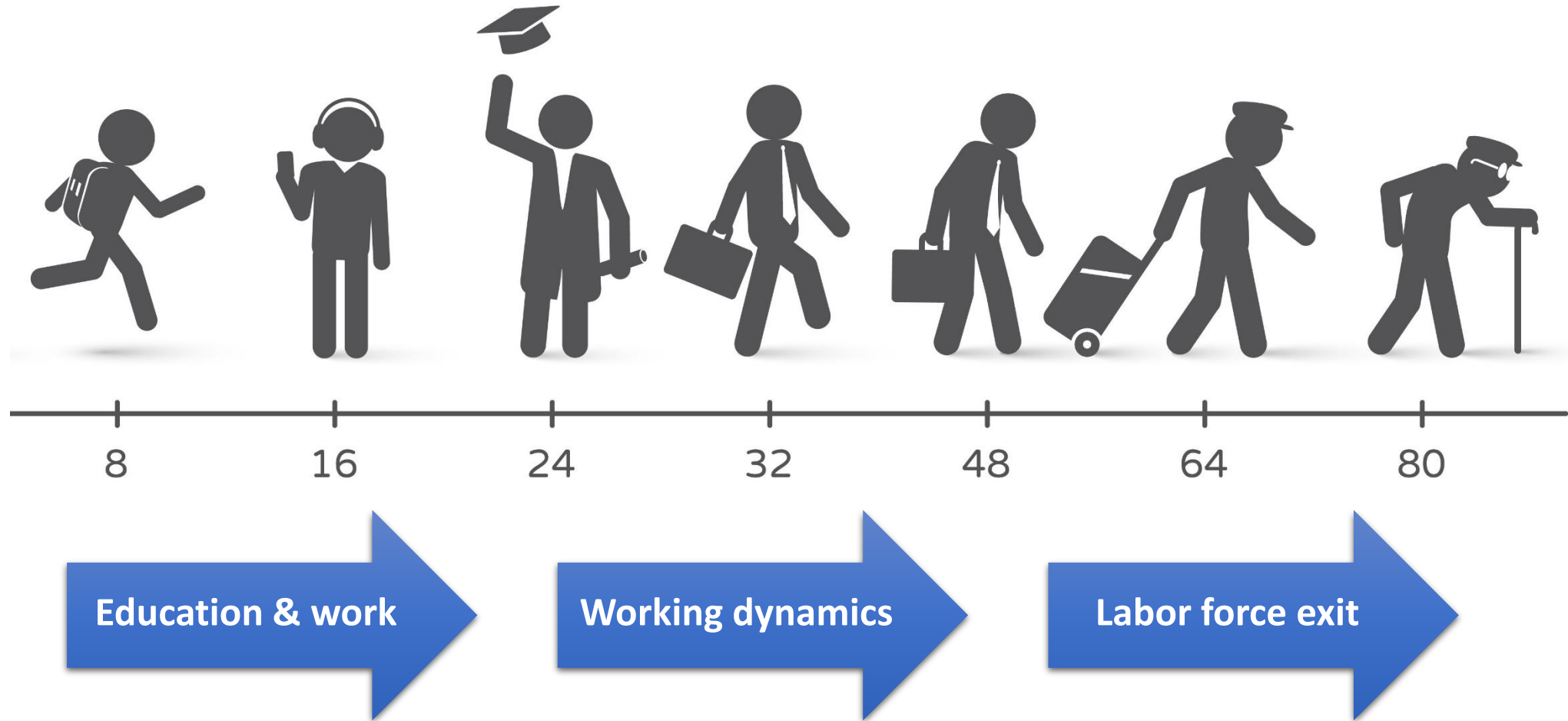


# The large firms are very large and getting larger

Employee shares of top firms

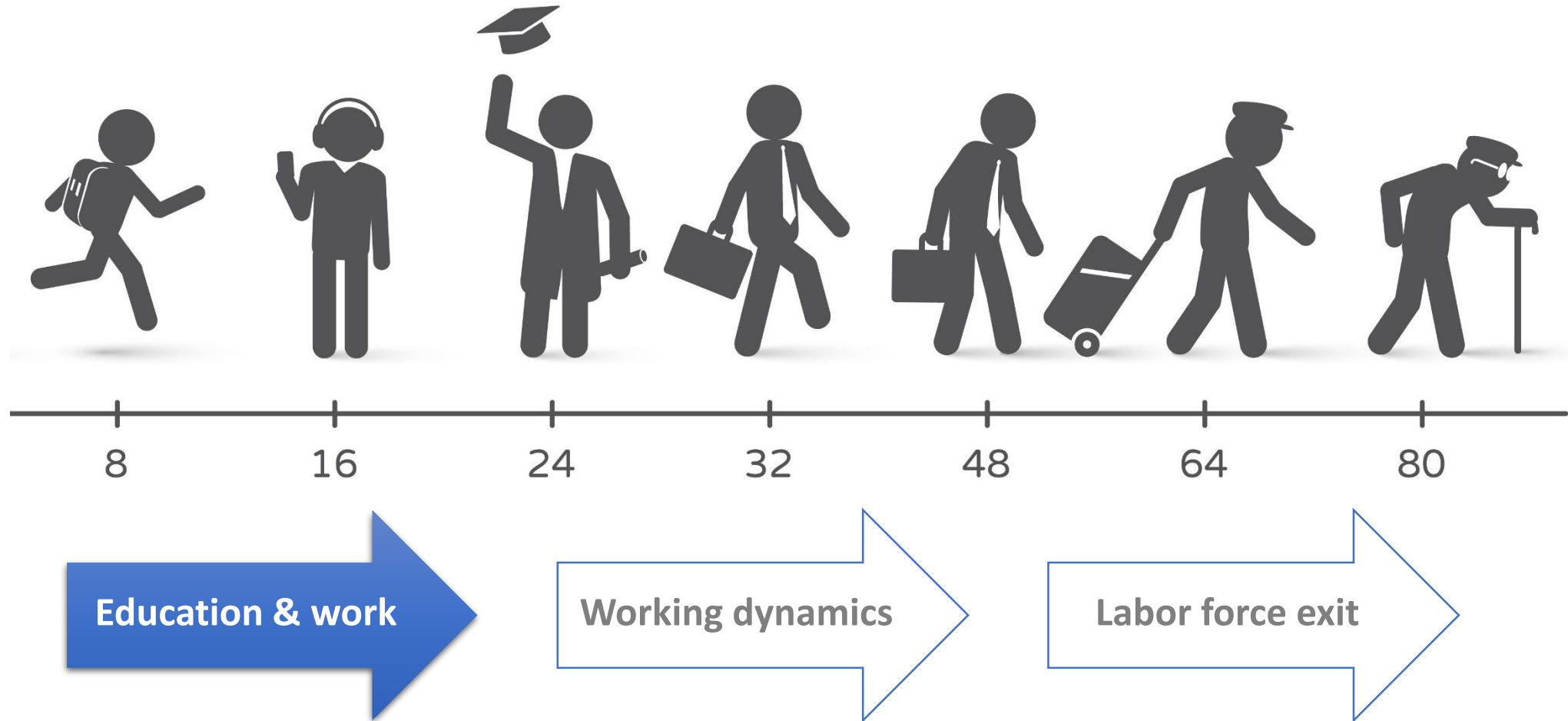


# The Workers' Journey

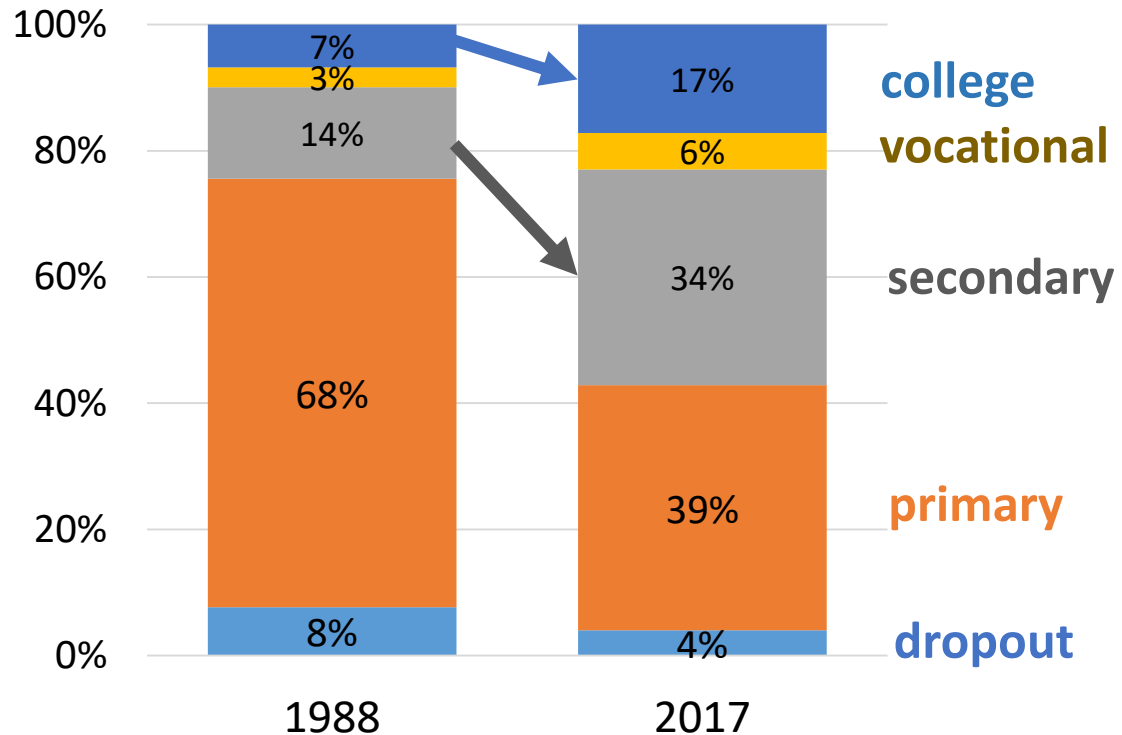




# The Workers' Journey



# Compared to 30 years ago, Thailand scores well in education



Does higher education lead to

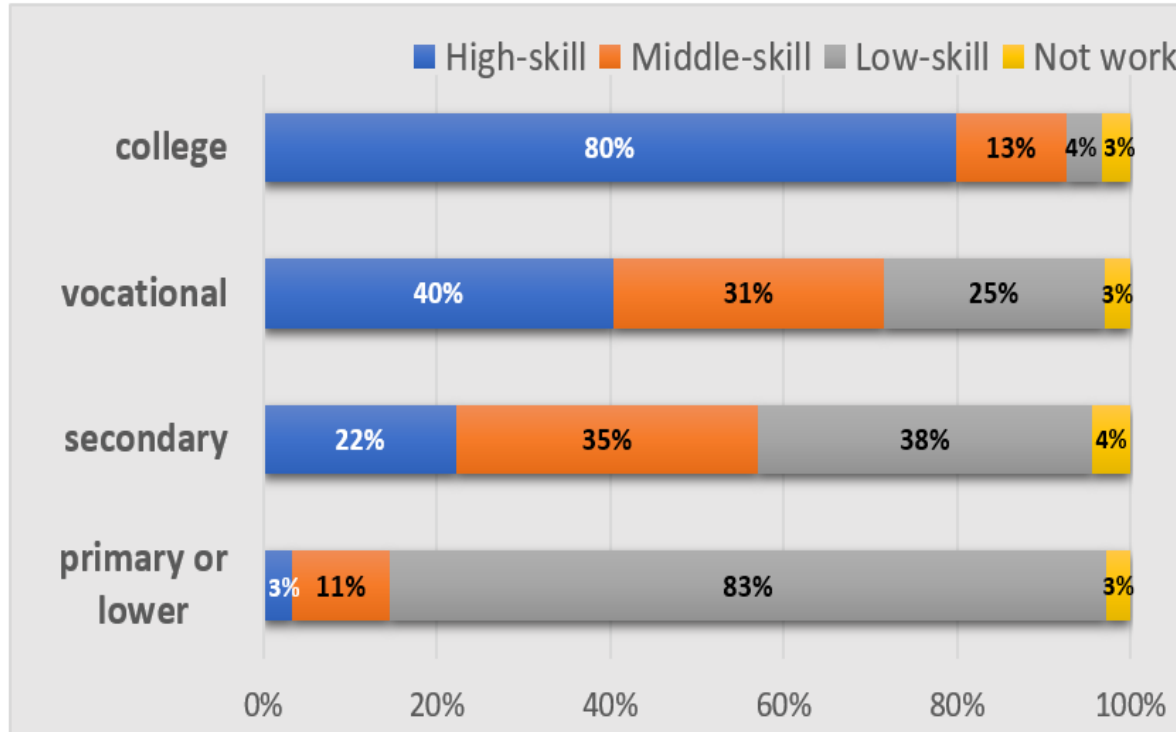
- more high skill jobs?

- higher earnings?

**1988-1990:**

**80% of college workers held high-skill jobs  
35% of secondary workers held middle-skill jobs**

Men : 1988-1990

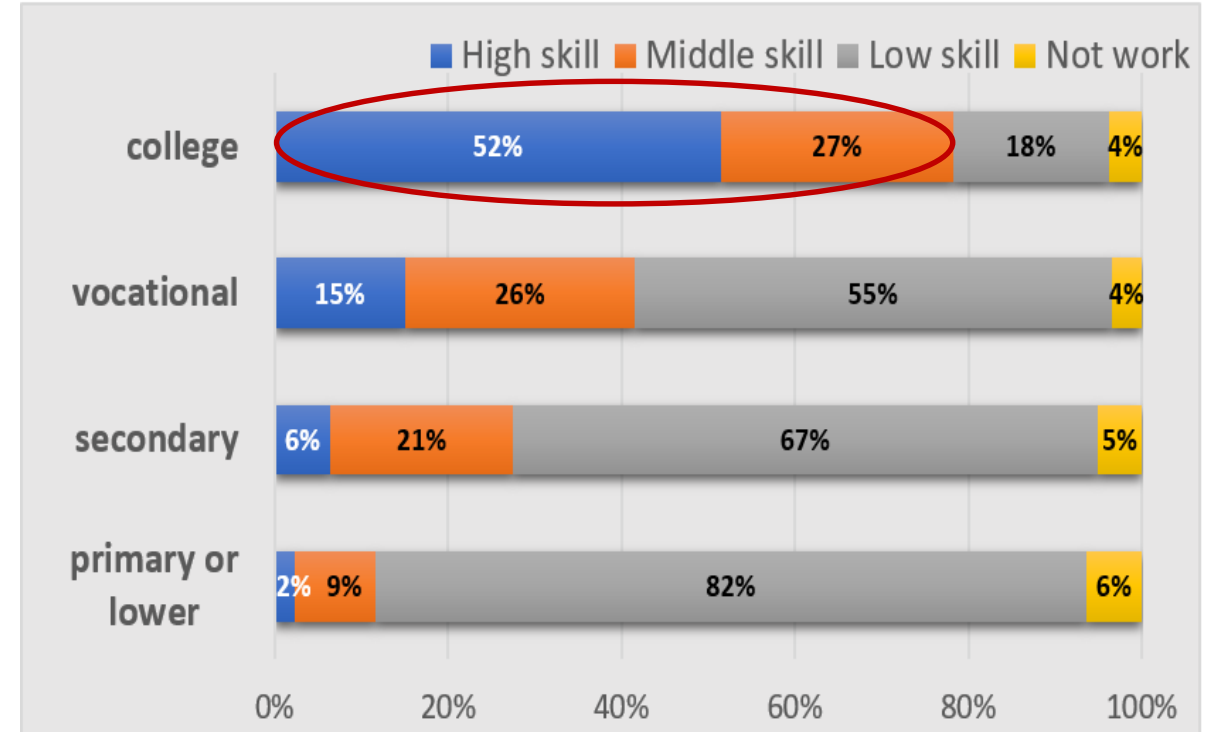
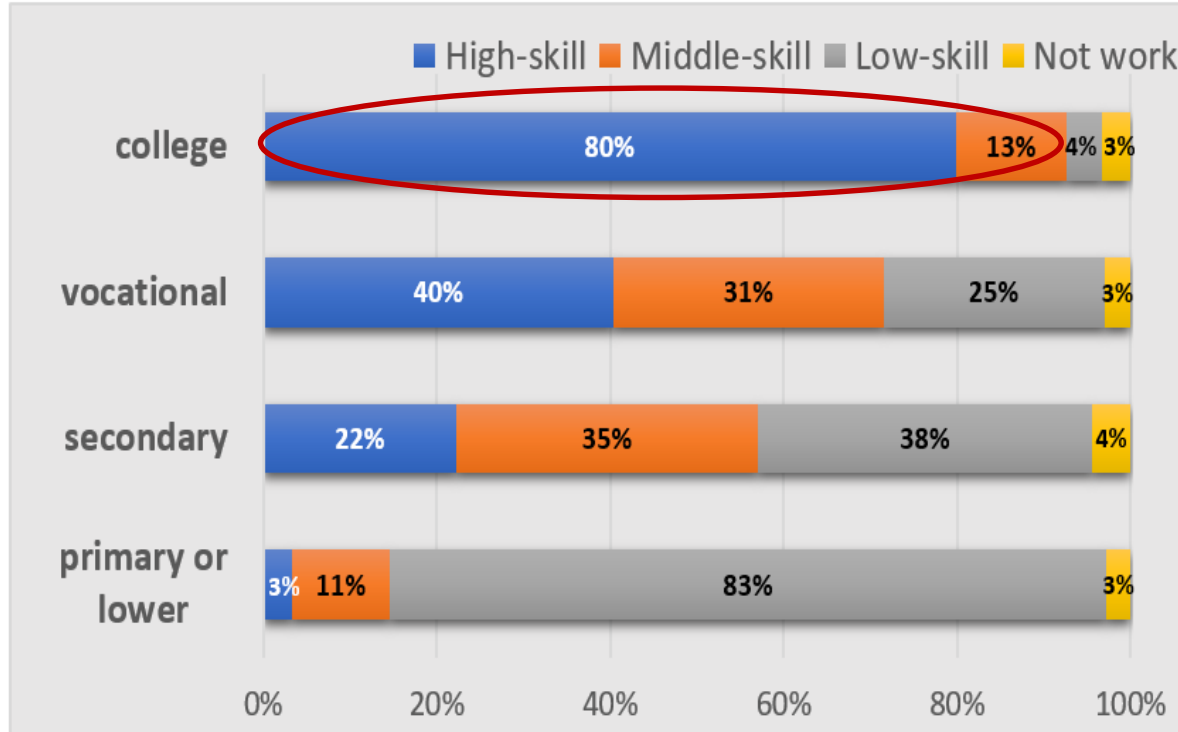


## 2015-2017:

## More college workers held middle-skill jobs

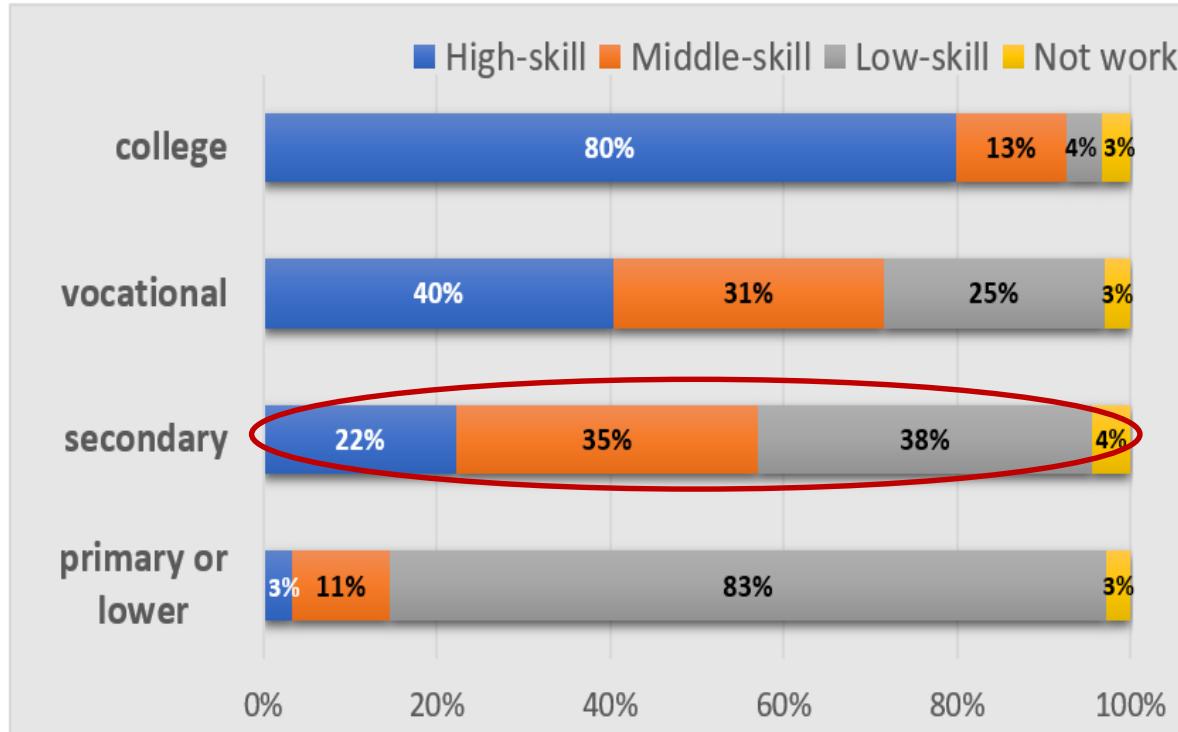
Men : 1988-1990

Men : 2015-2017



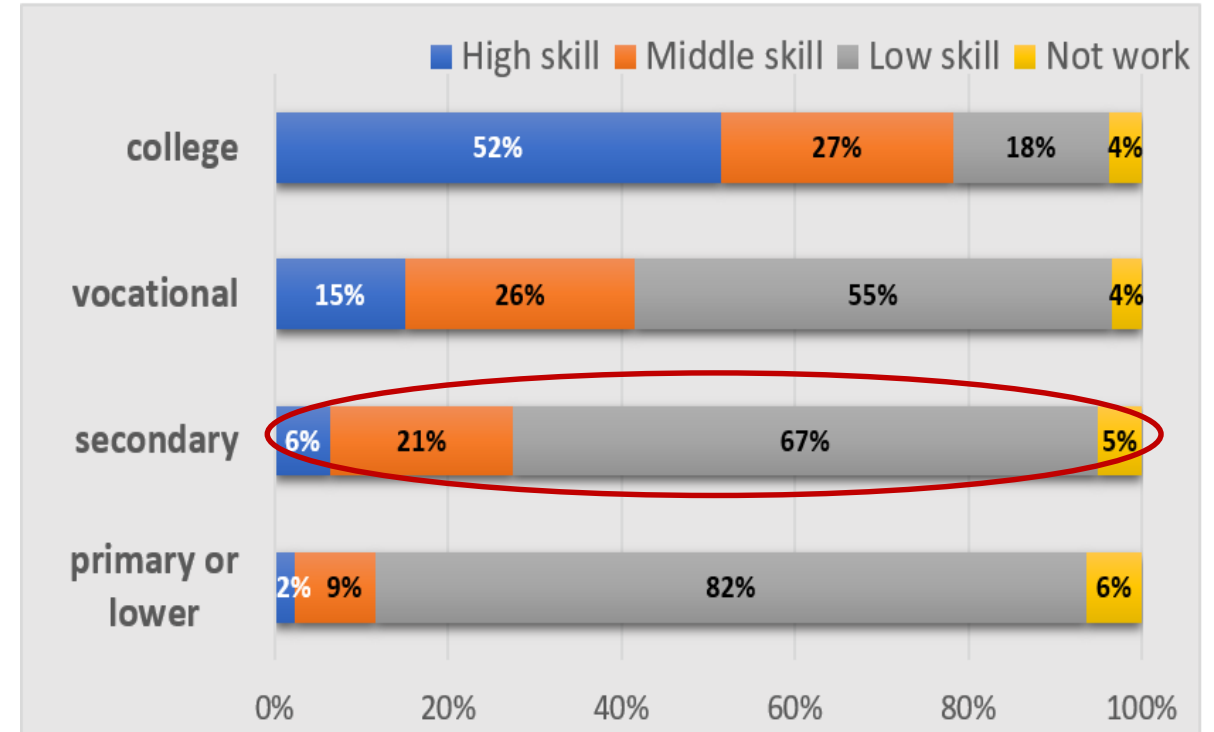
## 2015-2017:

Men : 1988-1990



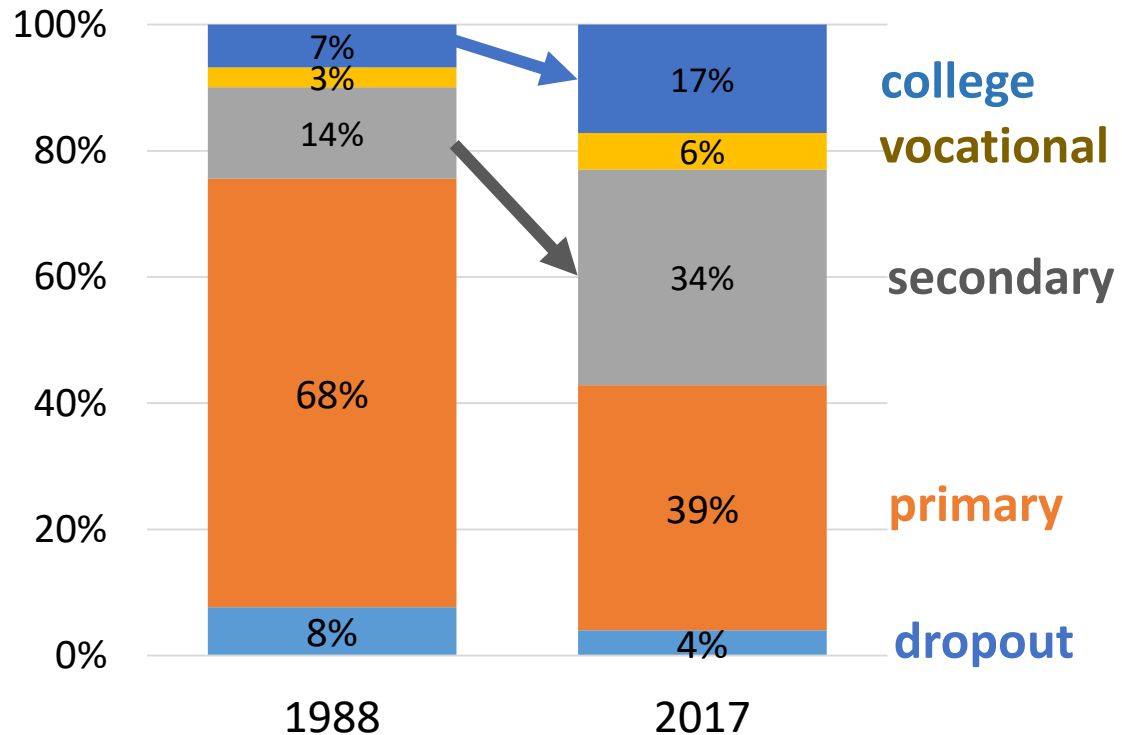
## More college workers held middle-skill jobs More secondary workers held low-skill jobs

Men : 2015-2017



# **Concern #1 : Education & occupation mismatches**

# Compared to 30 years ago, Thailand scores well in education



Does higher education lead to

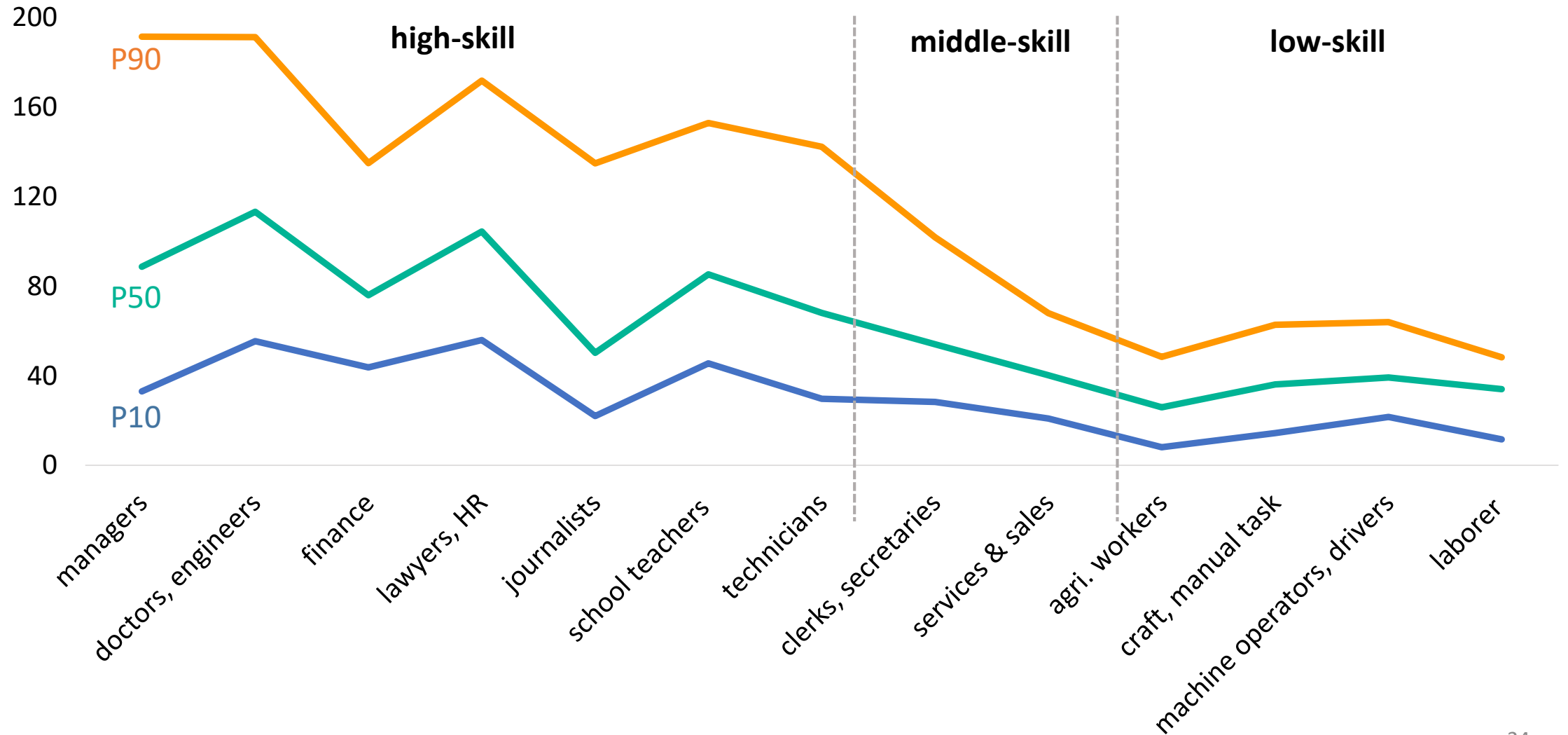
- more high skill jobs?

- higher earnings?



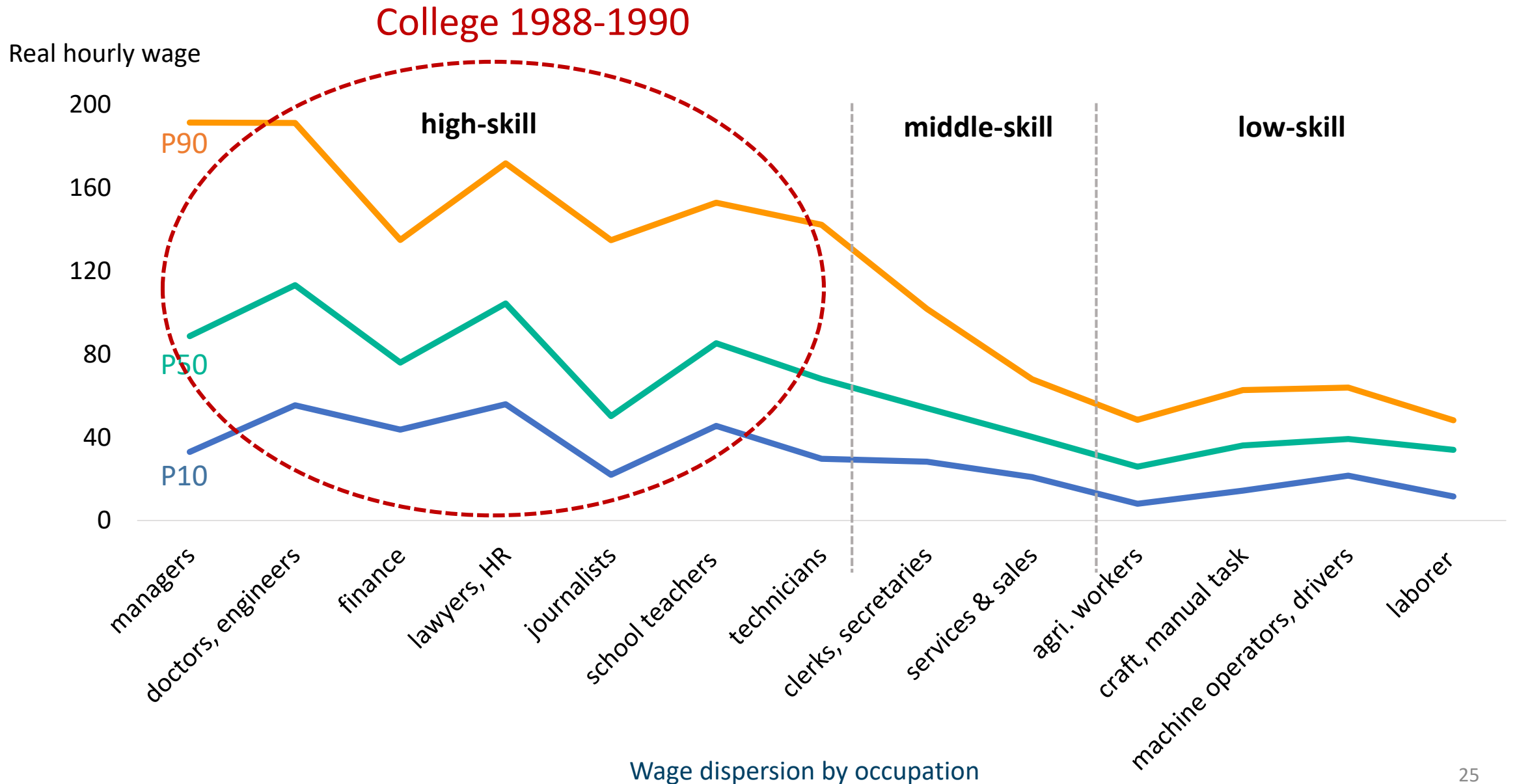
# Wage dispersion by occupation

Real hourly wage





# 1988-1990: college concentrated in high-skill high-paid jobs

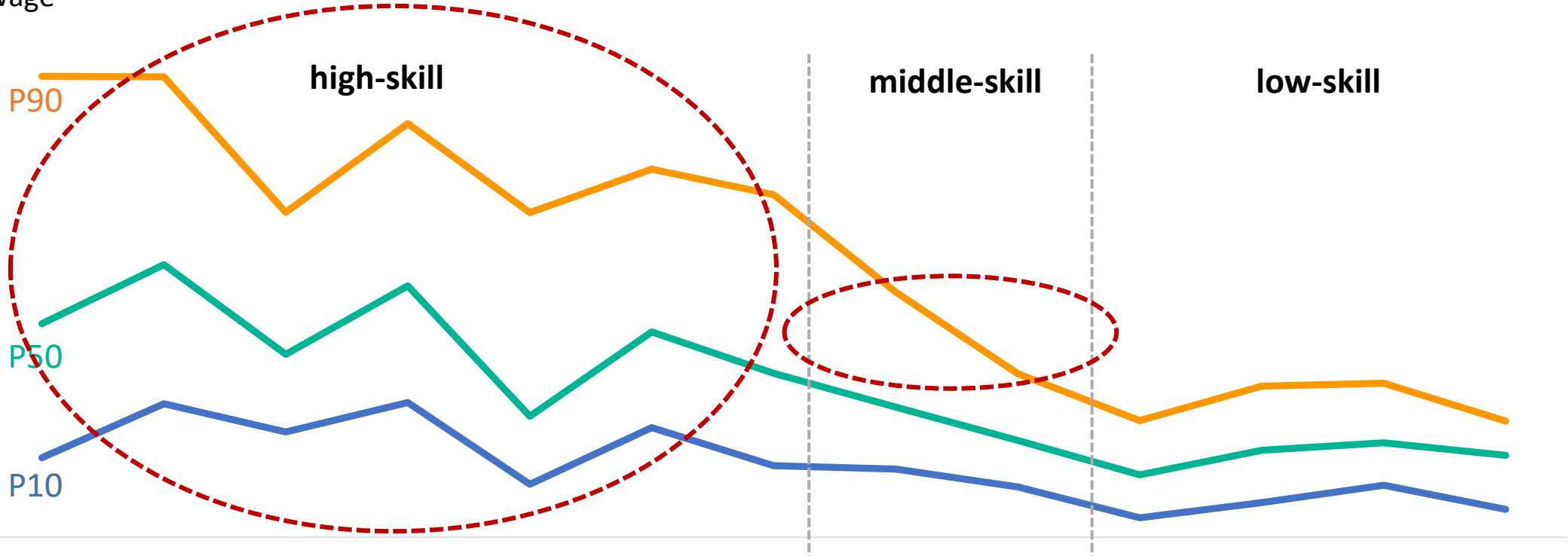


# 2015-2017: some college worked in middle-skill jobs, which paid less

## College 2015-2017

Real hourly wage

200  
160  
120  
80  
40  
0



high-skill

middle-skill

low-skill

P90

P50

P10

managers

doctors, engineers

finance

lawyers, HR

journalists

school teachers

technicians

clerks, secretaries

services & sales

agri. workers

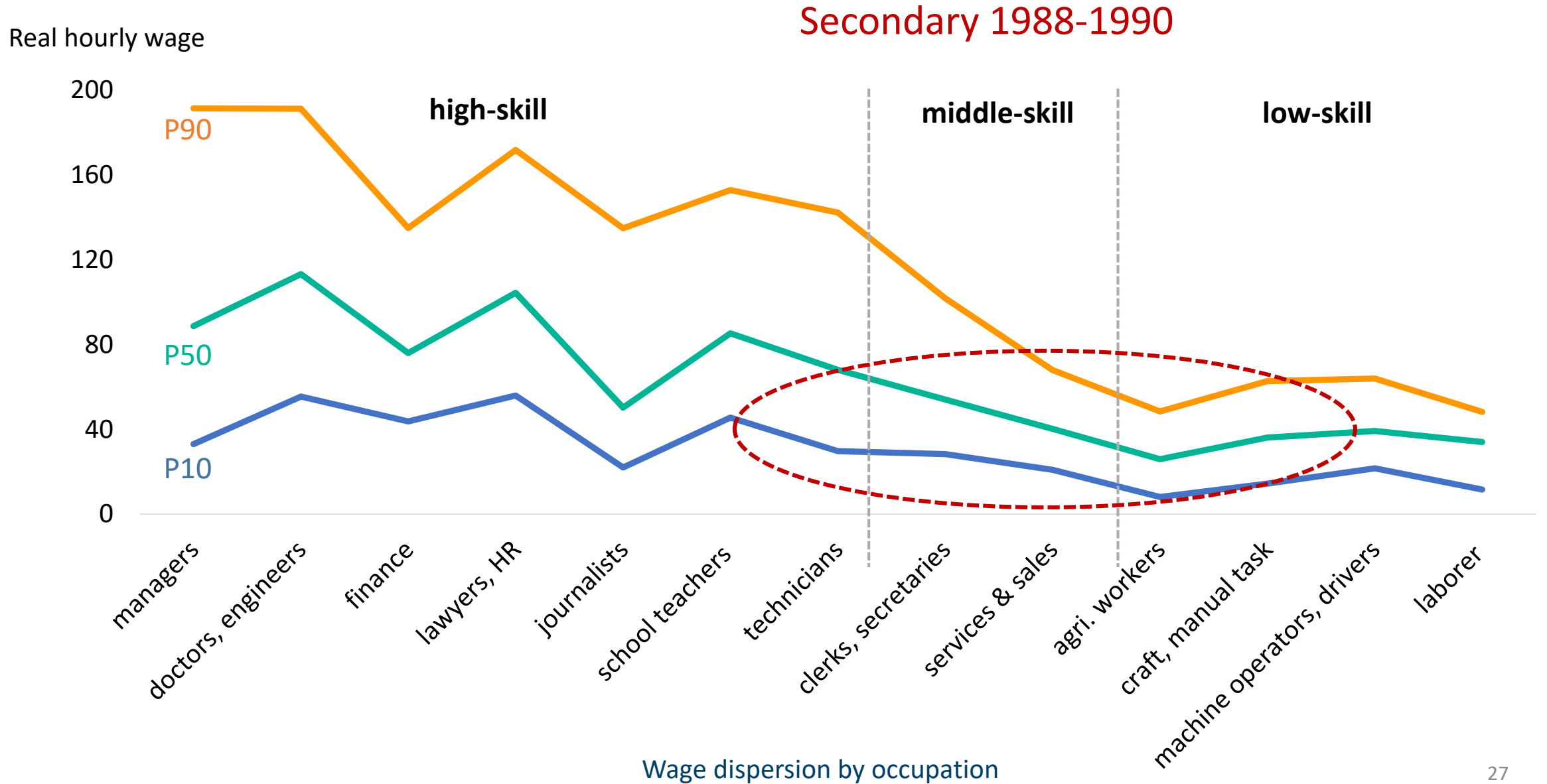
craft, manual task

machine operators, drivers

laborer

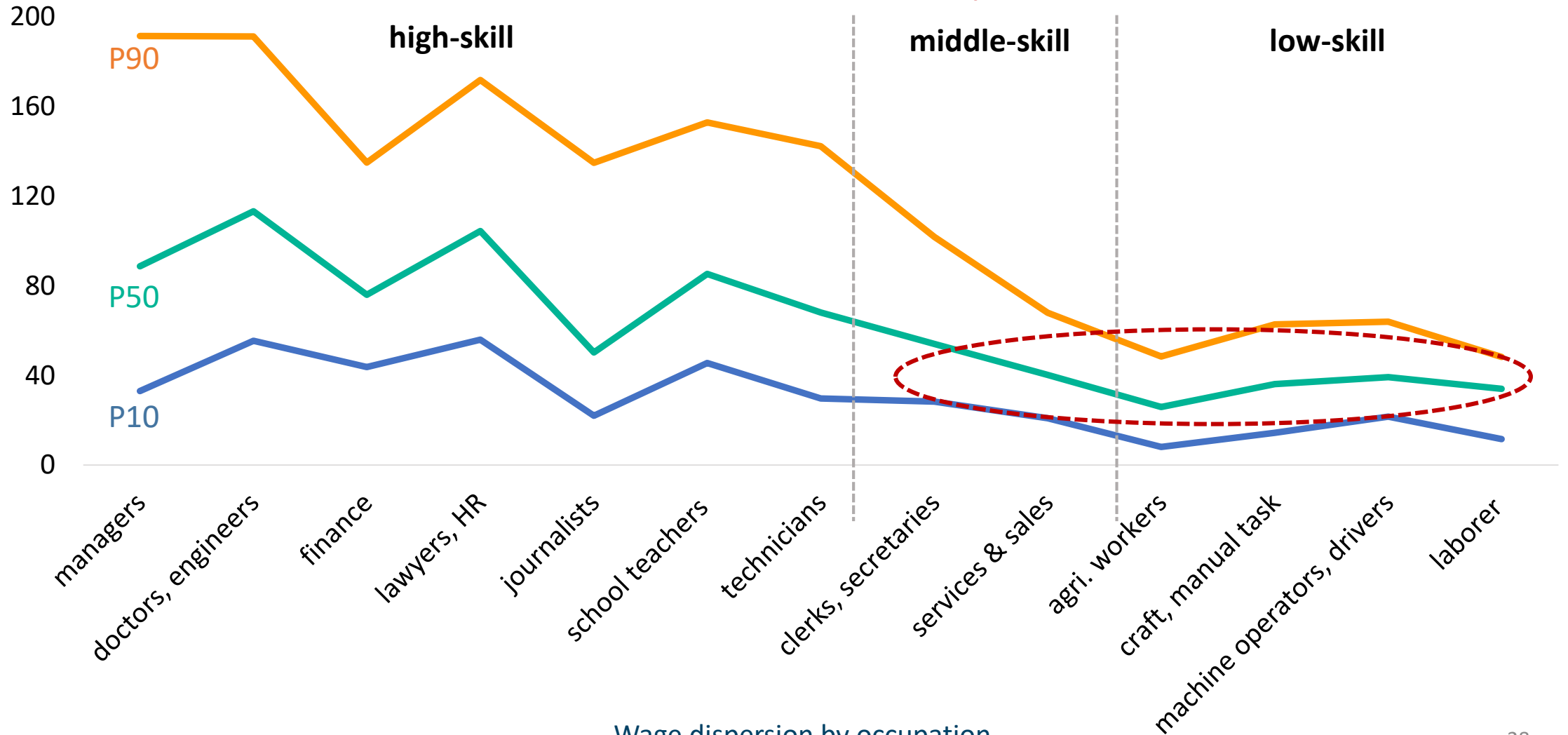
Wage dispersion by occupation

# 1988-1990: 38% of secondary worked in low-skill jobs



**1988-1990: 38%** } of secondary worked in low-skill jobs  
**2015-2017: 67%** }

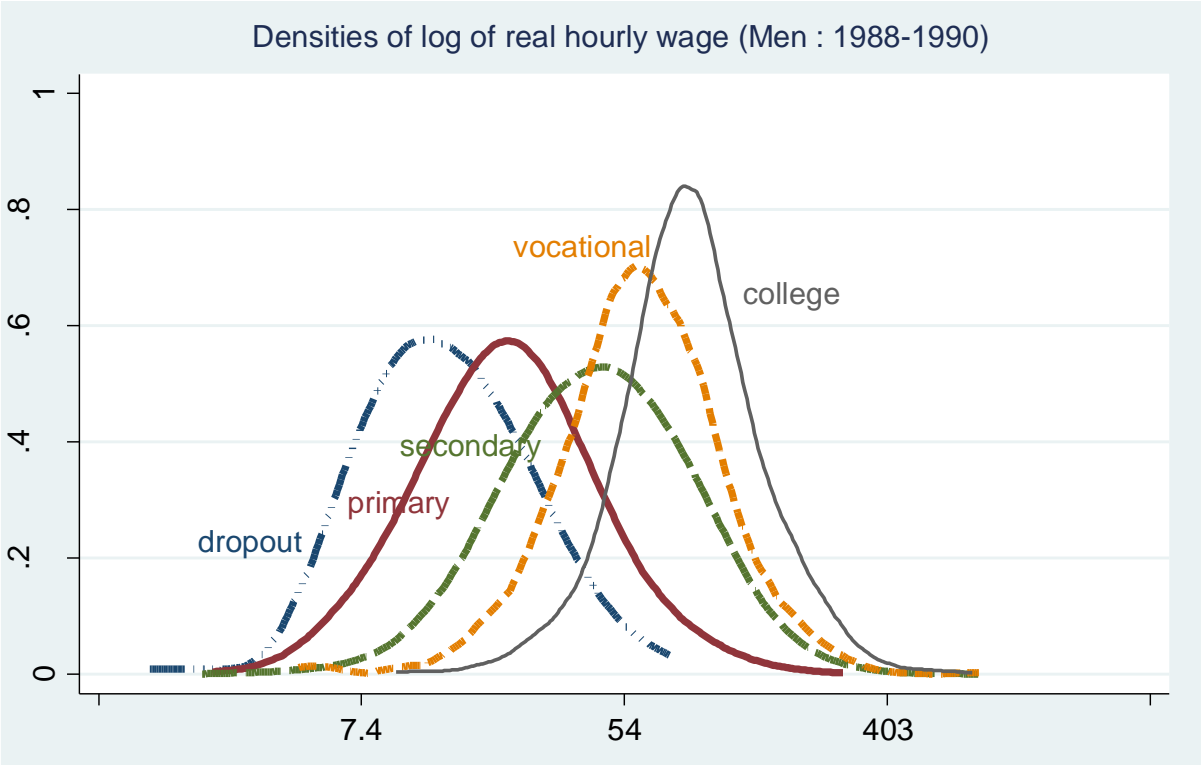
Real hourly wage



Wage dispersion by occupation

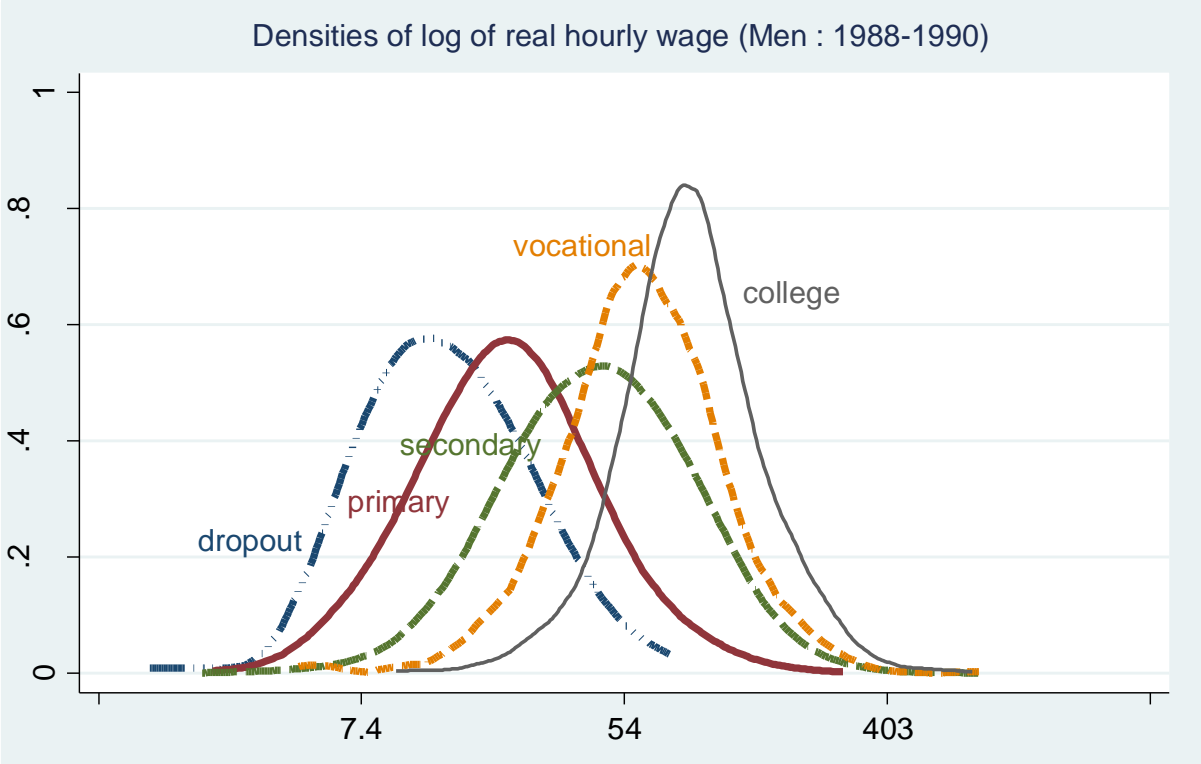
# 1988-1990: higher education led to higher average wage

1988-1990

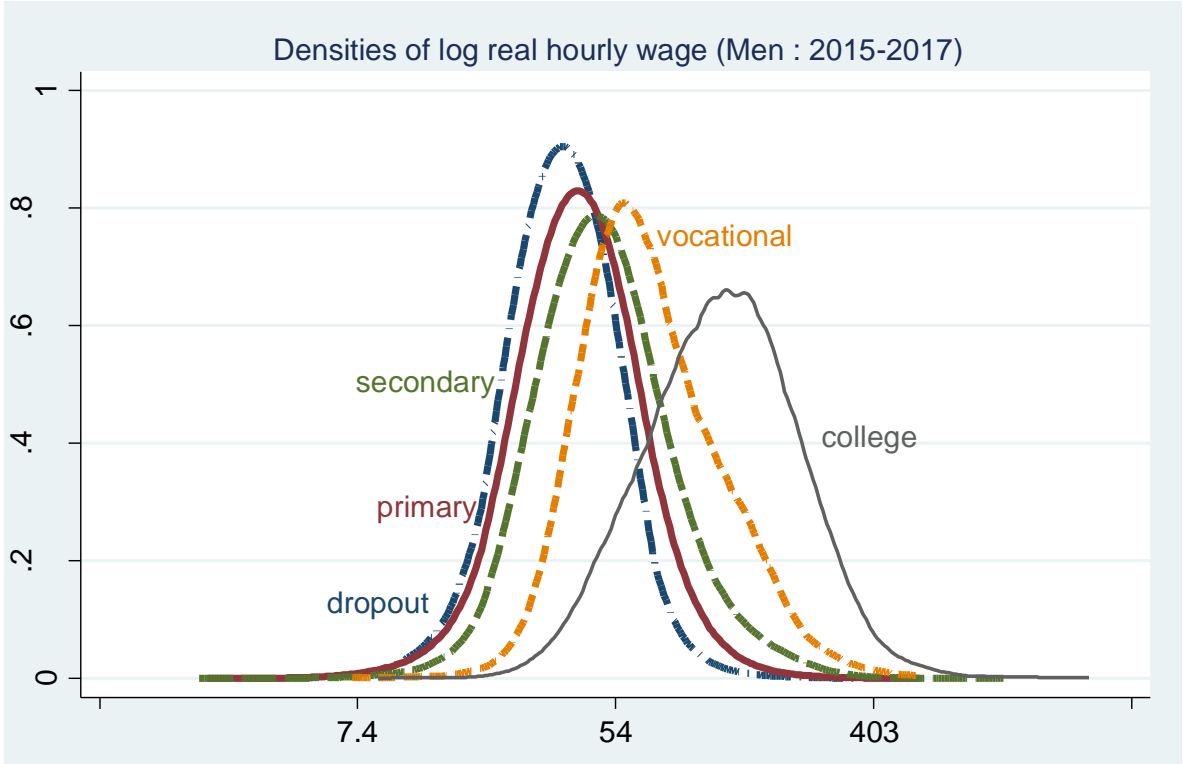


# 2015-2017: wage densities of secondary, primary or lower groups became similar some college workers did not earn high wage

1988-1990

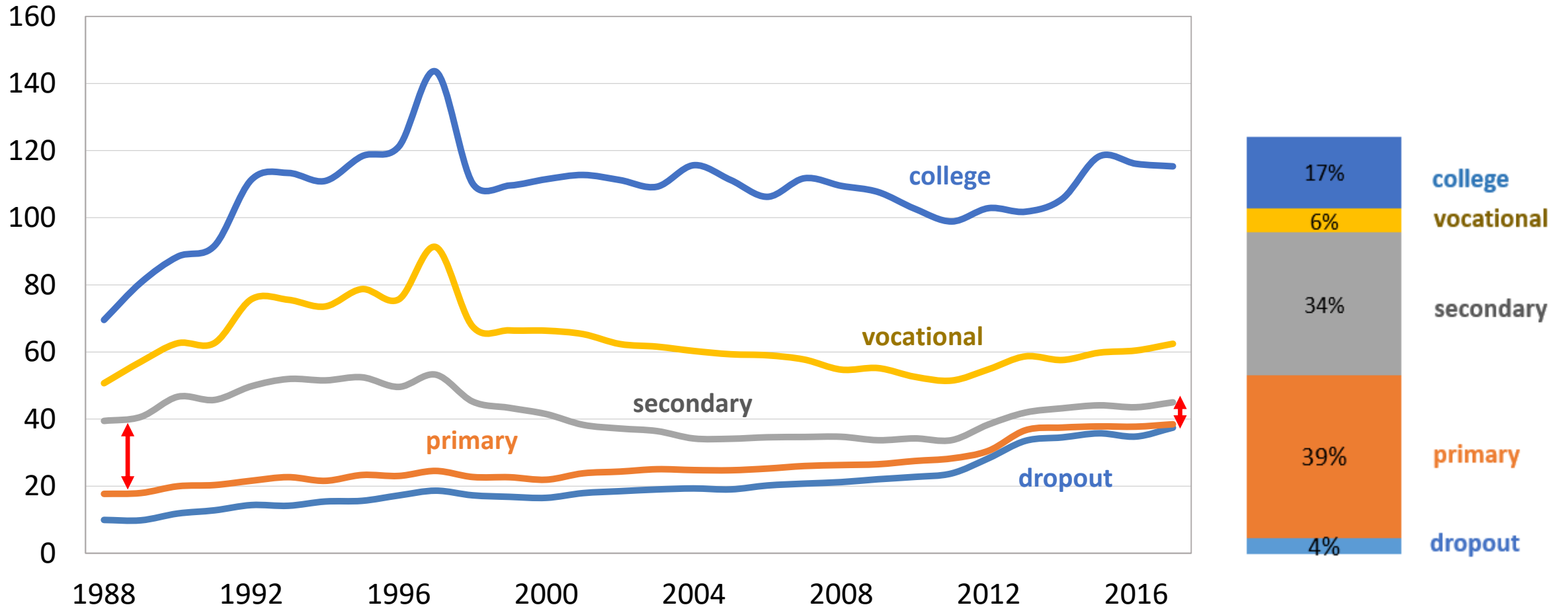


2015-2017



- Secondary group were relatively worse off
- College workers left other groups behind

Median real hourly wage: overall



**LFS** : education , jobs, earnings are intertwined...

but ...

how many jobs each worker has over his/her working life?

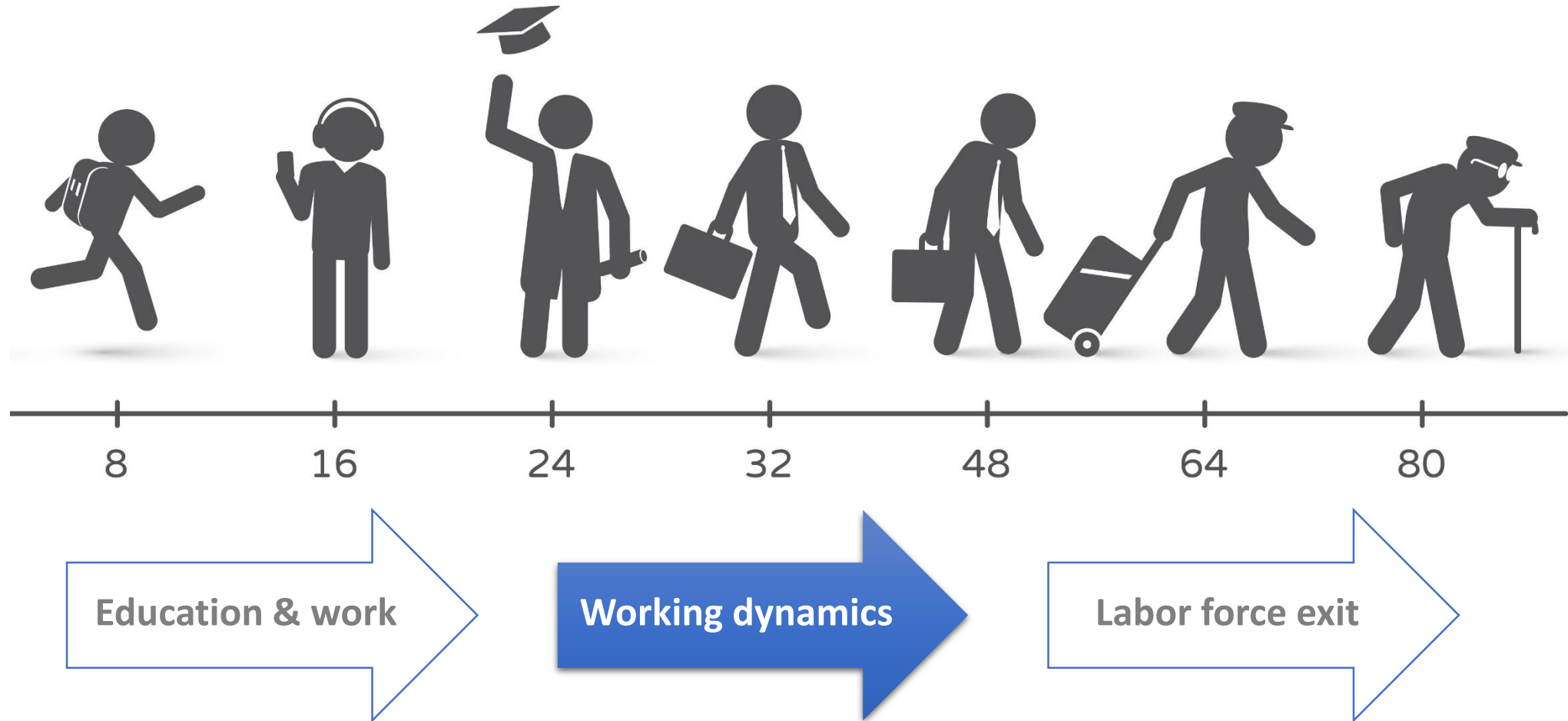
how many months each worker works in a year?

**SSO** data can help complete the picture.

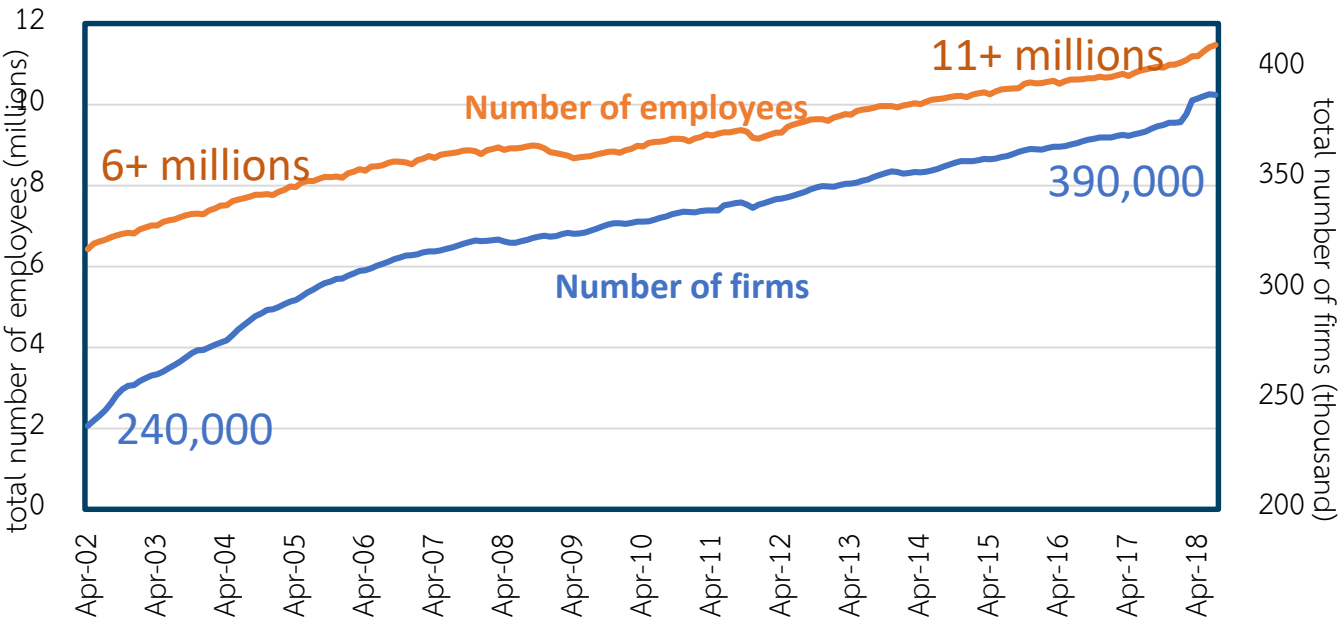




# The Workers' Journey



# The SSO Data



Monthly

- follow the same individual
- follow the same firm

Observe

age, gender, wage

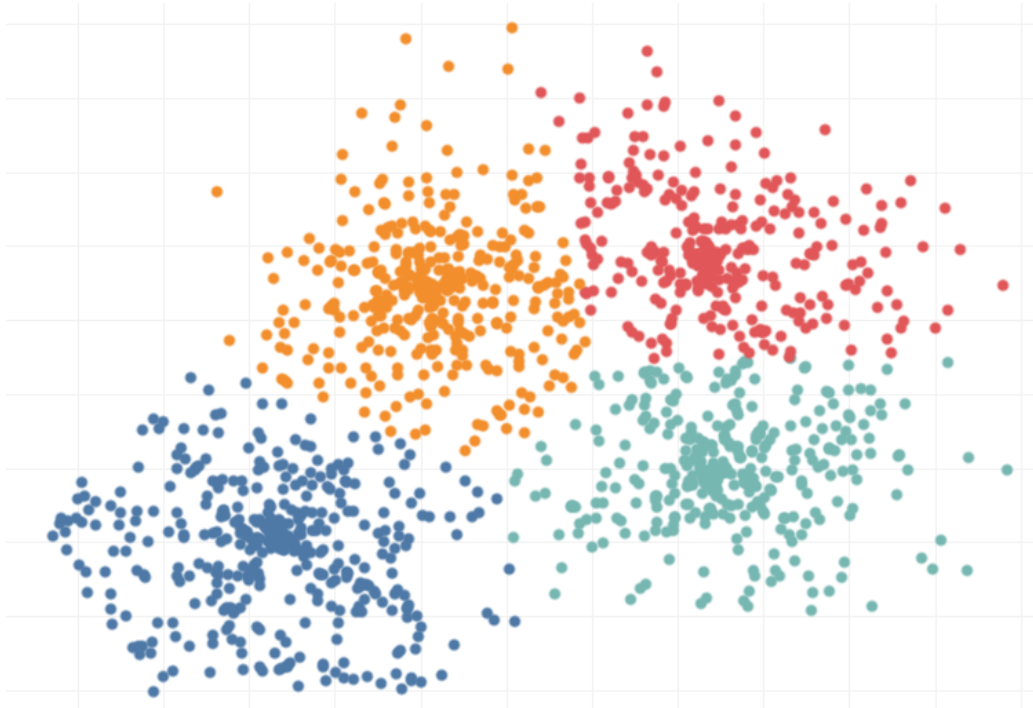
Do not observe

edu, occupation, industry

# Following each employee for a long period

Sample = employees (aged 15-44 in 2002) x 96 months

Use clustering technique to group each employee's employment information



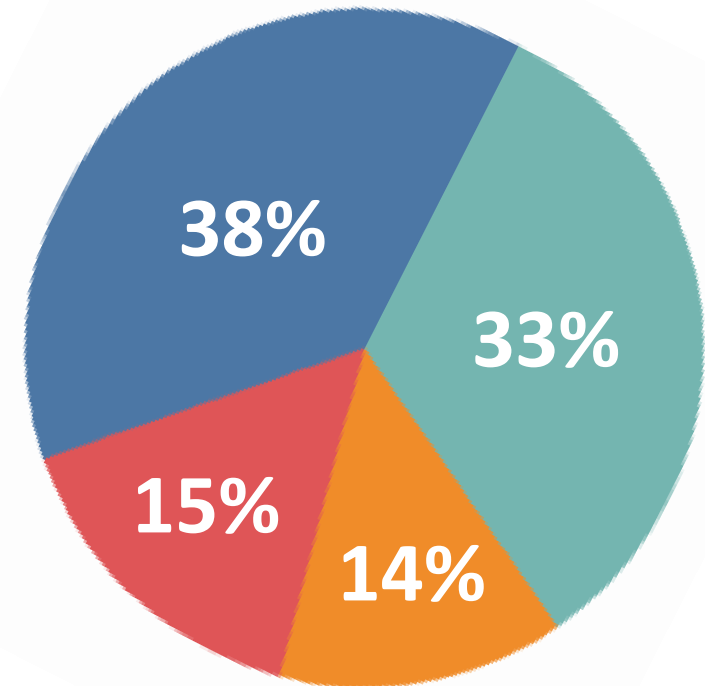
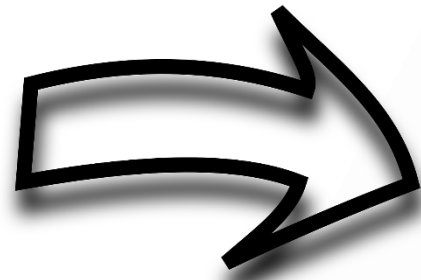
## Characteristics

- 1) No. of jobs
- 2) Job tenure
- 3) No. of unemployment
- 4) Length of unemployment
- 5) Total length observed
- 6) No. of times exiting and returning to the same firm



## ML technique suggested the number of optimal clusters = 4

### Characteristics

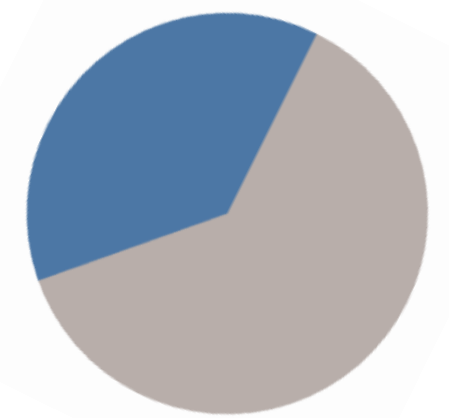
- 1) No. of jobs
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- 5) Total length observed
- 6) No. of times exiting and returning to the same firm



# Let's meet the first group



|   | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A |
|  | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job B | Job B | Job B |

**38%**



Stable jobs, may have 2+ jobs but always in SS

# Let's meet the first group

|   | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A |
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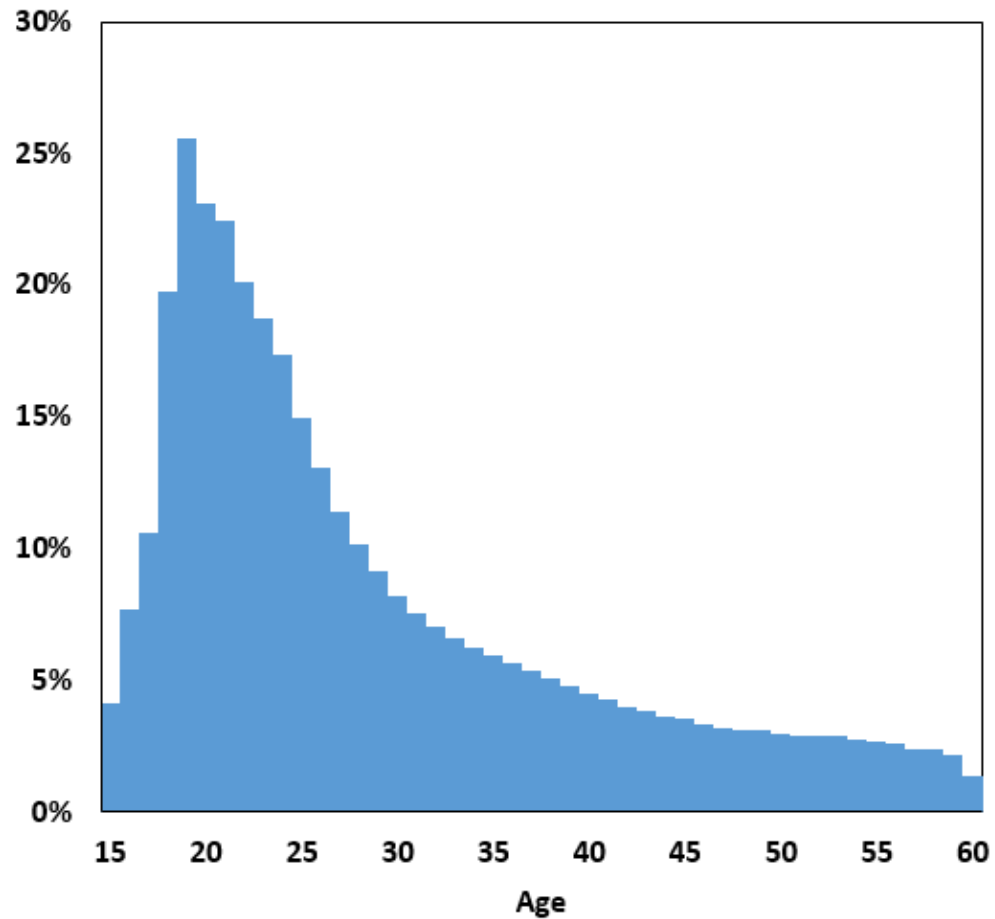
“Stayers”  
**38%**

Stable jobs, may have 2+ jobs but always in SS



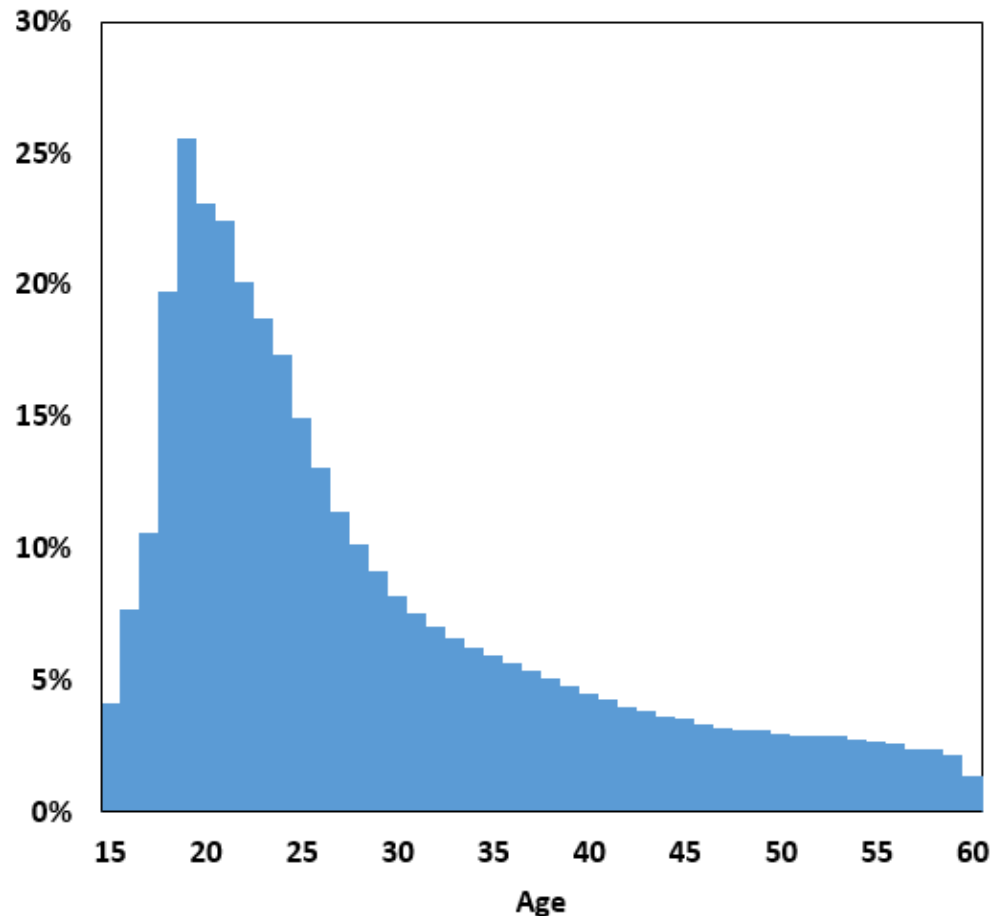
# Job switching rates peak at early 20s, then decline with age

Job switching rates (Stayers)



# Job switching rates peak at early 20s, then decline with age

## Job switching rates (Stayers)



## Shares of online job ads targeting applicants' age

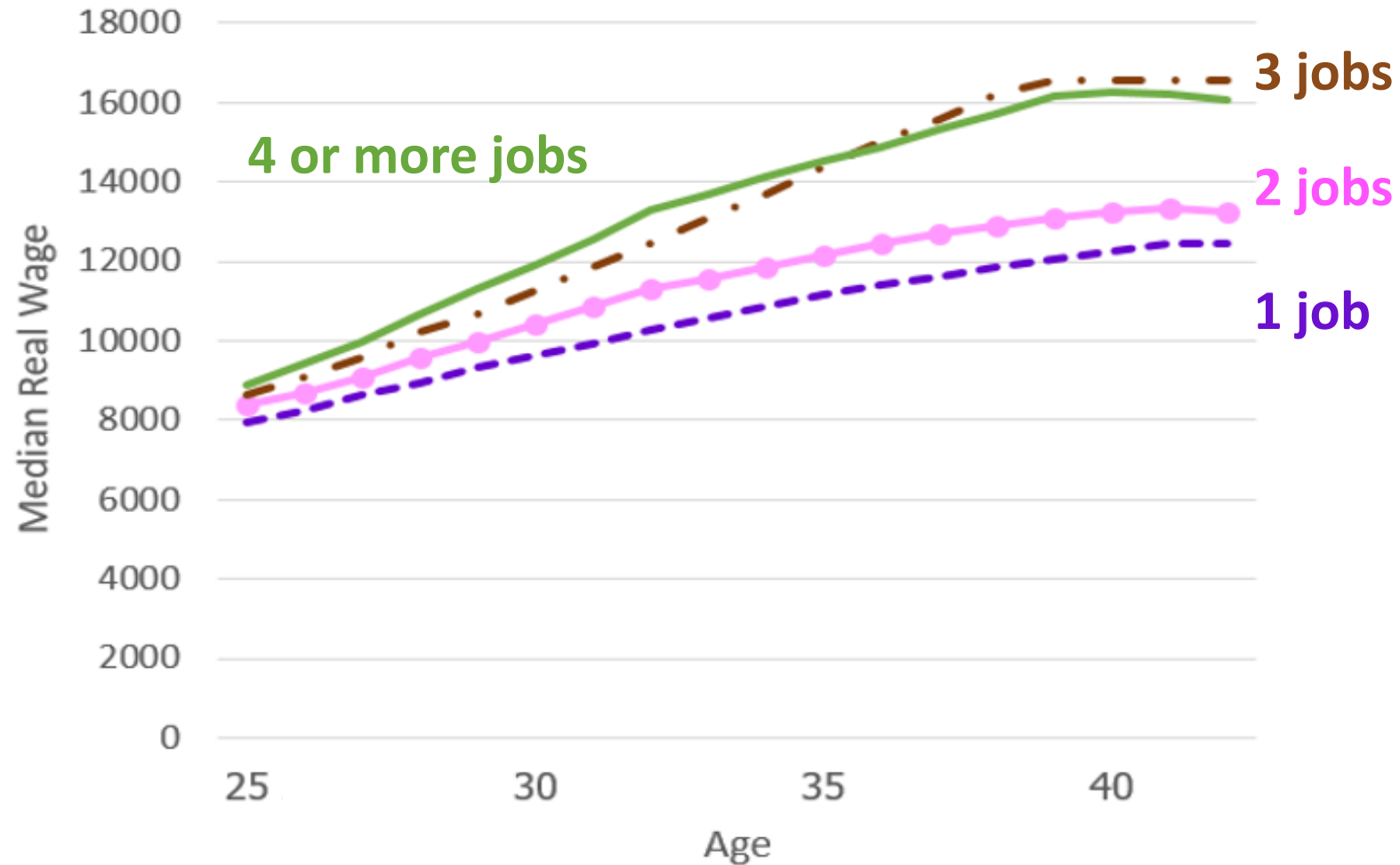
| Age targeted   | Share |
|----------------|-------|
| Any age        | 25%   |
| Age 15-29      | 68%   |
| Age 30 or over | 7%    |

Source: Lekfuangfu et al. (2016)

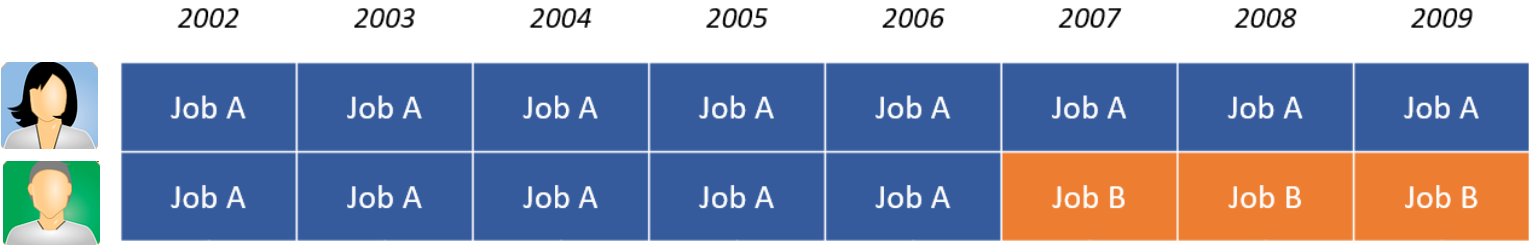


# Switching jobs leads to higher wages (better job matches)

Median wages by ages and the number of jobs over 8 years (Stayers)



# The 4 Work Patterns





“Stayers” Stable jobs, may have 2+ jobs but always in SS  
**38%**



**33%**

# The 4 Work Patterns

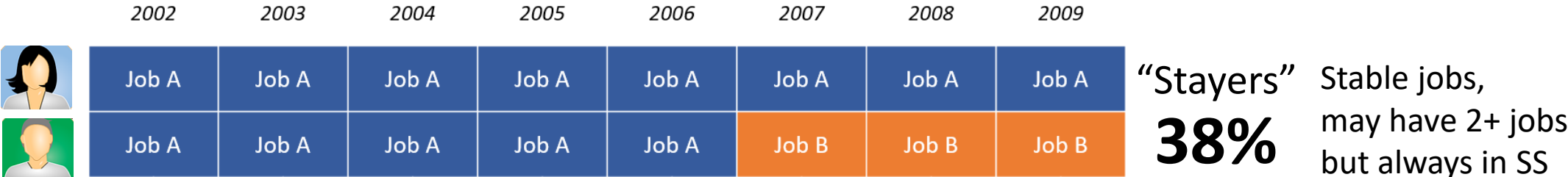
|   | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A |
|  | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job A | Job B | Job B | Job B |

“Stayers” Stable jobs, may have 2+ jobs but always in SS  
**38%**

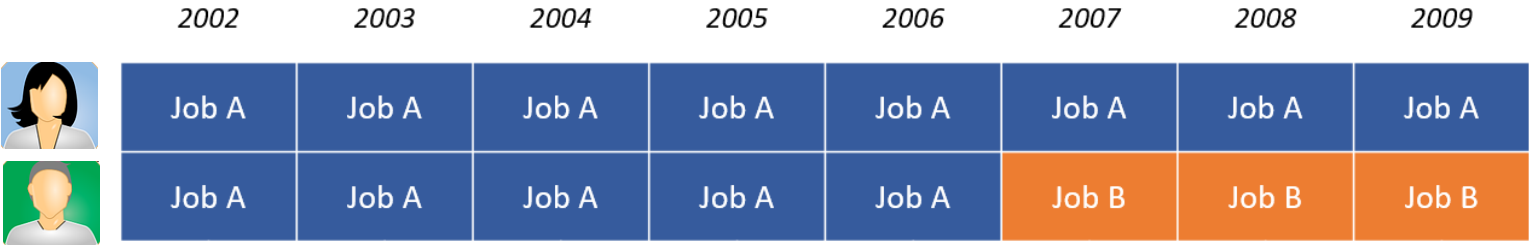
|   |       |       |        |       |       |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | Job A | Job A | [Grey] |       | Job B | Job B | Job B | Job B |
|  | Job A | Job A | [Grey] | Job B | Job C | Job C | Job D | Job D |

“Movers”  
**33%**

# The 4 Work Patterns



# The 4 Work Patterns



“Stayers” Stable jobs, may have 2+ jobs but always in SS  
**38%**

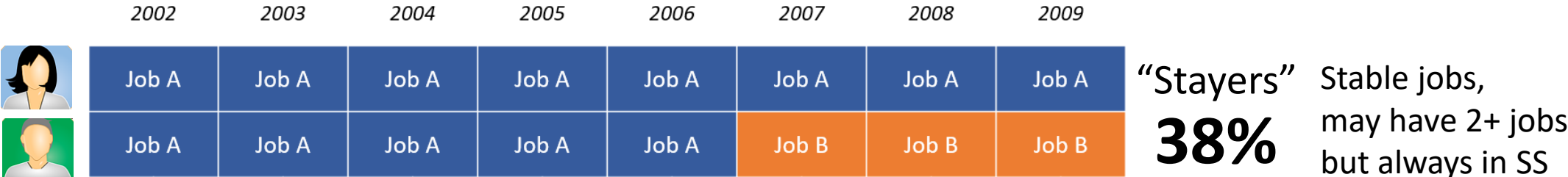


“Movers”  
**33%**

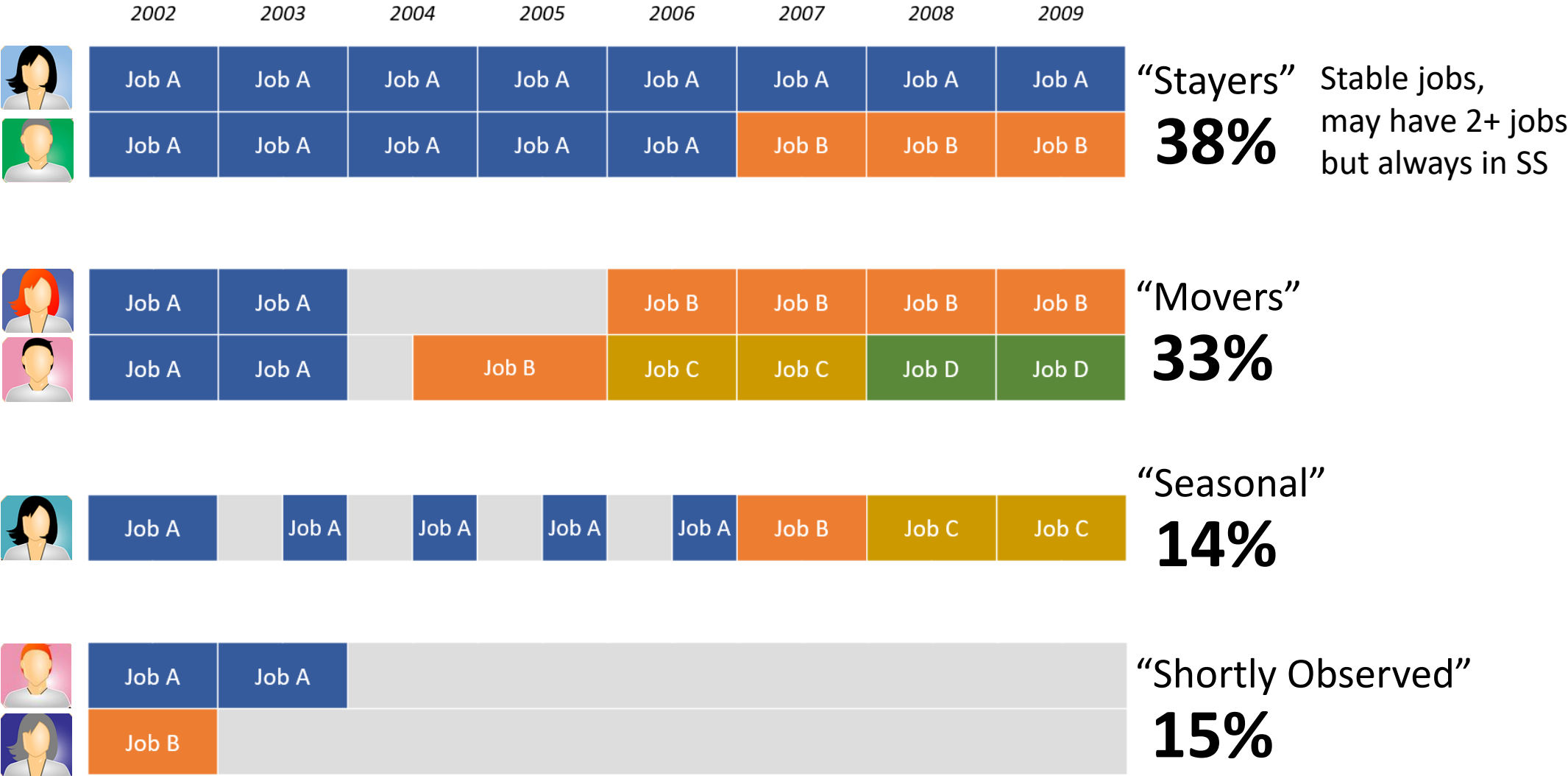


“Seasonal”  
**14%**

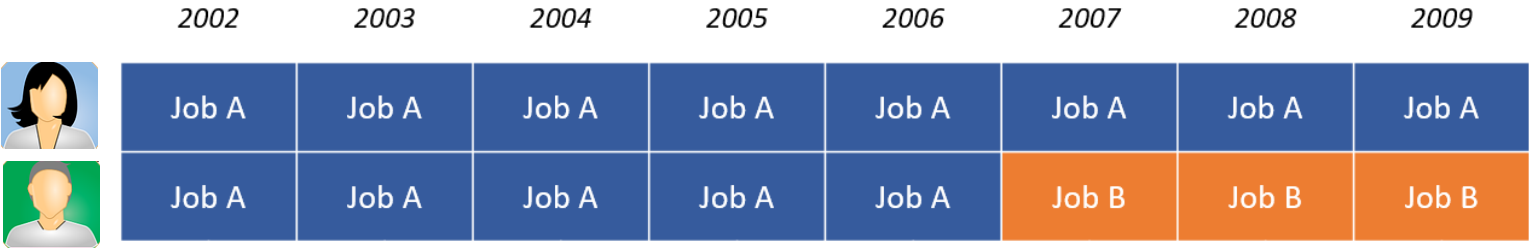
# The 4 Work Patterns



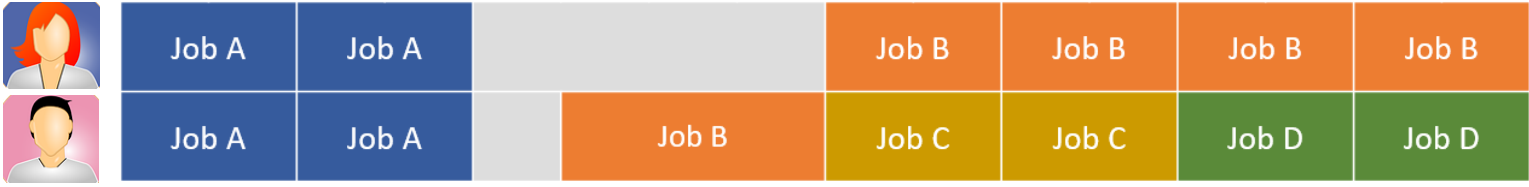
# The 4 Work Patterns



# The 4 Work Patterns



“Stayers” Stable jobs, may have 2+ jobs but always in SS  
**38%**



“Movers”  
**33%**



“Seasonal”  
**14%**

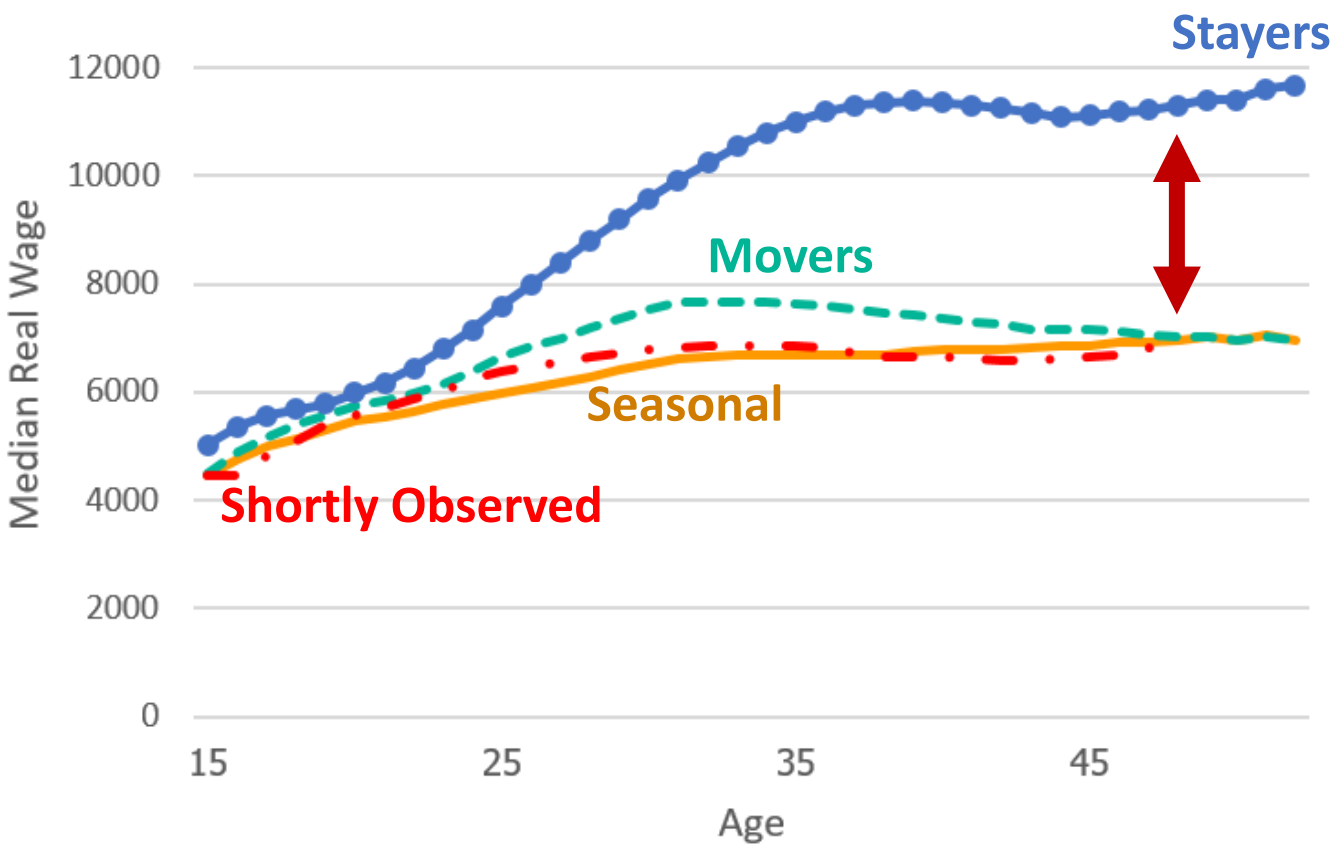


“Shortly Observed”  
**15%**

Hybrid between formal & informal sectors



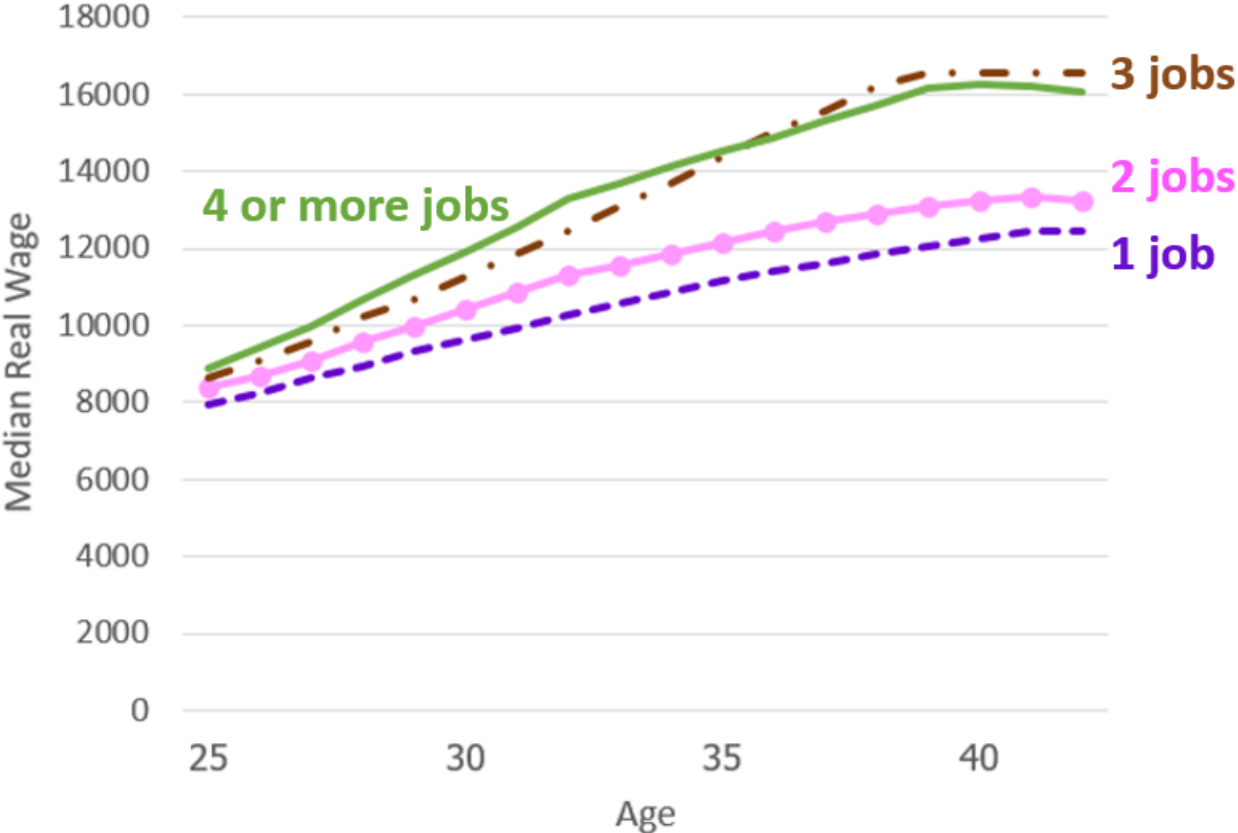
# Stayers (fully formal) always have higher wage; the gap increases with age



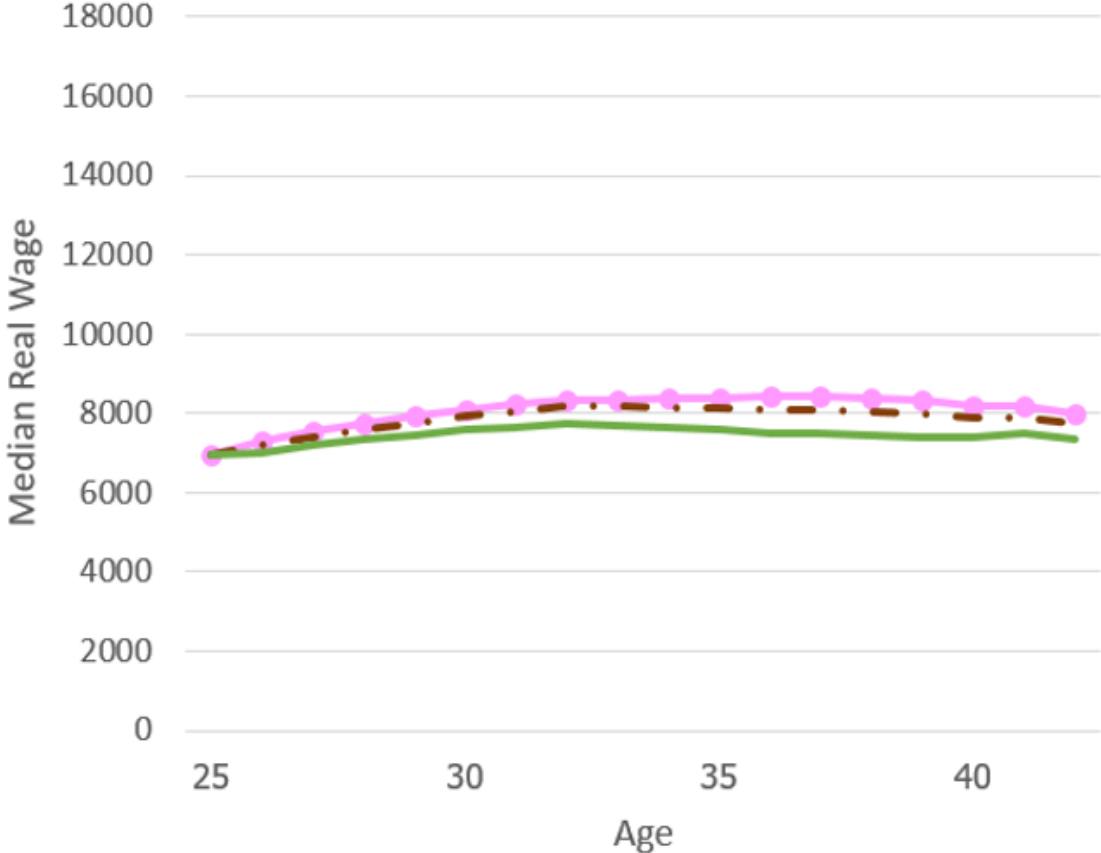
Stable jobs, may have 2+ jobs but always in SS

# Switching jobs leads to higher wages only for stayers, not others

## Stayers (fully formal)

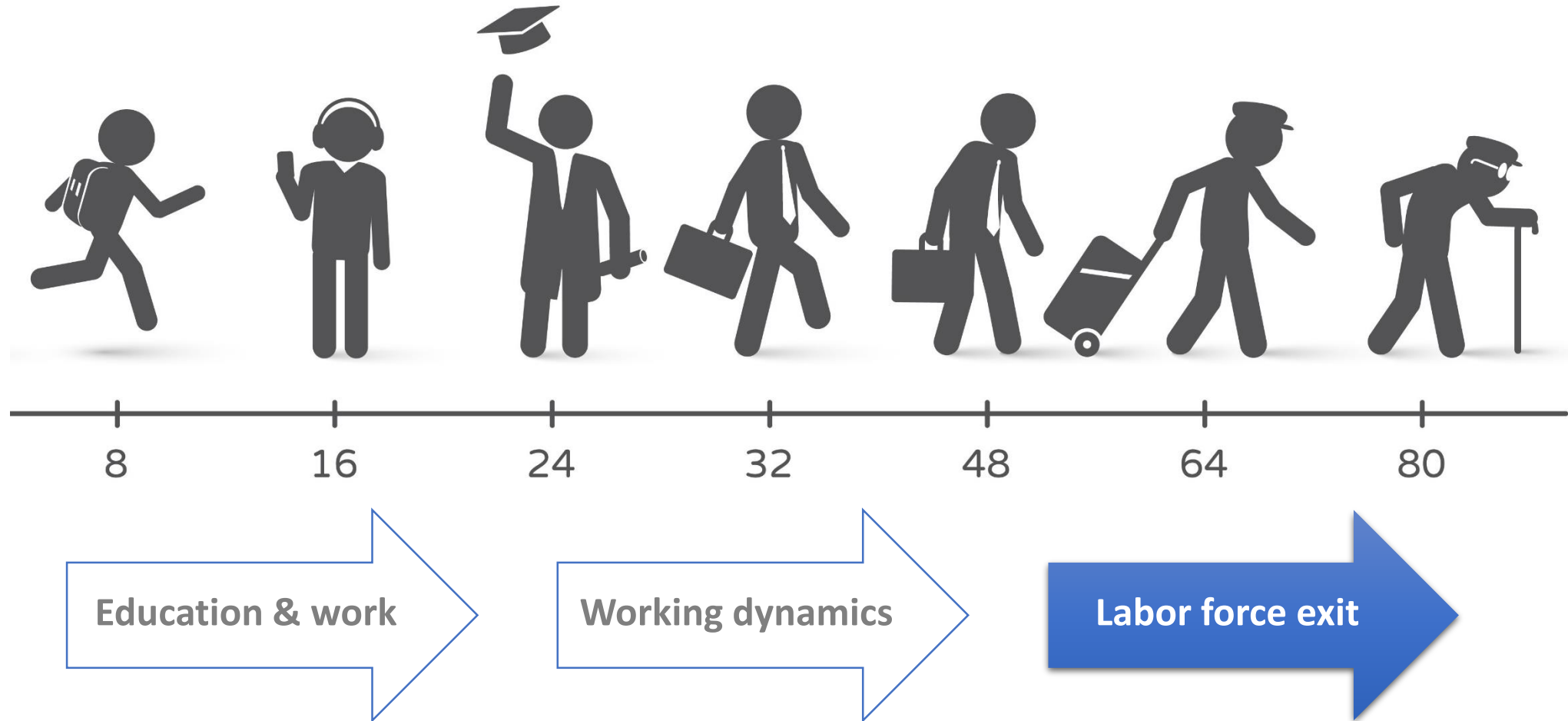


## Movers (hybrid formal & informal)



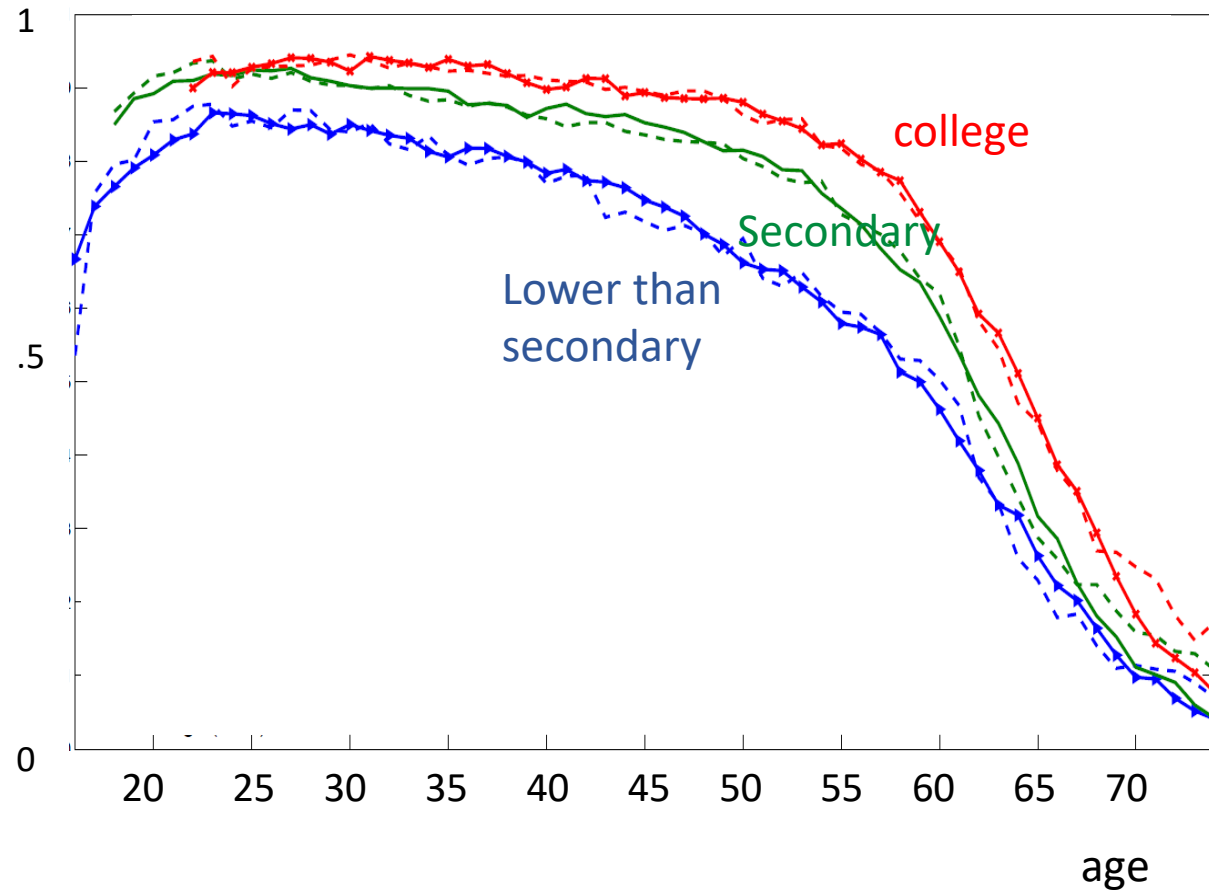
**Concern #2 : Majority of workers are left behind**

# The Workers' Journey



# In many countries, higher-educated (more productive) workers retire later.

labor force participation over life-cycle  
US men



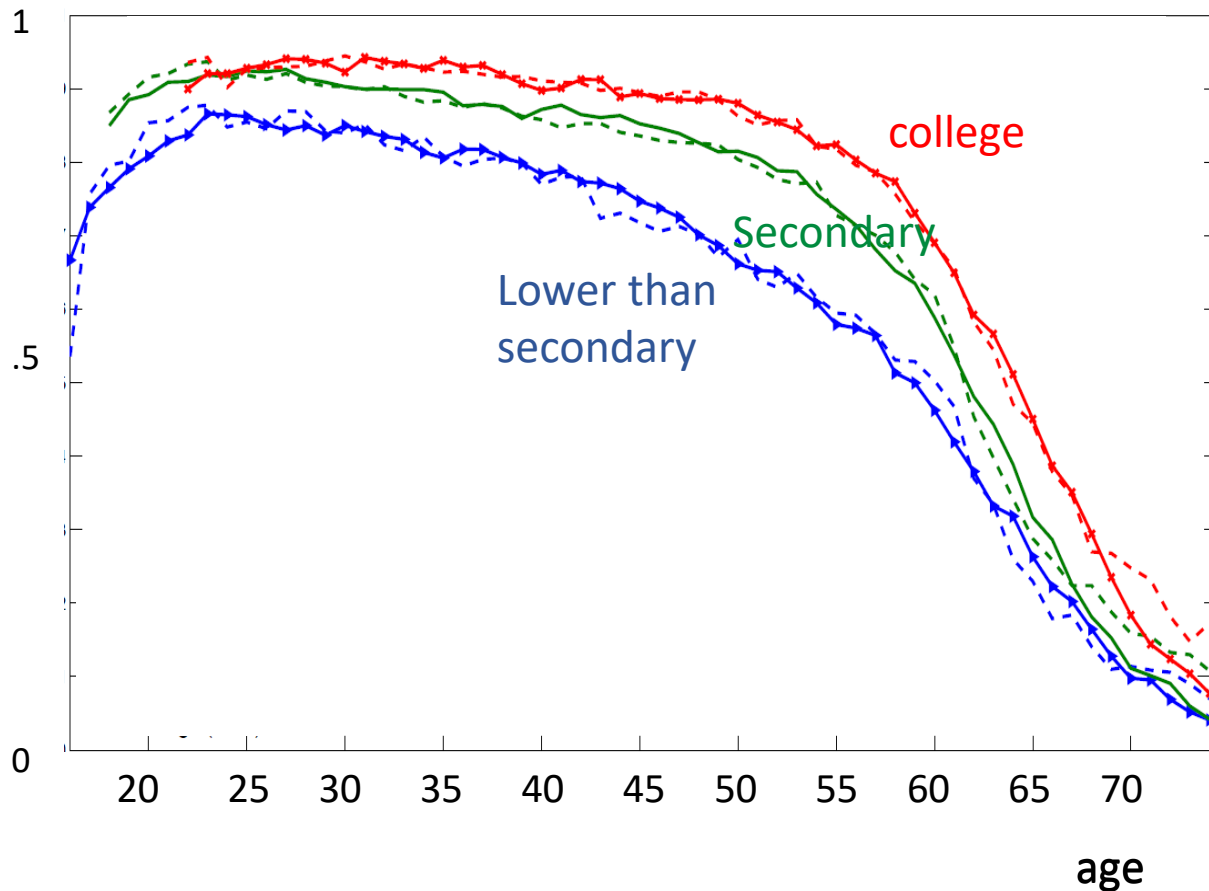
Source: Keane & Wasi (2016)

**In many countries, higher-educated (more productive) workers retire later.**

**Thailand : college graduates sharply retire at 60.**

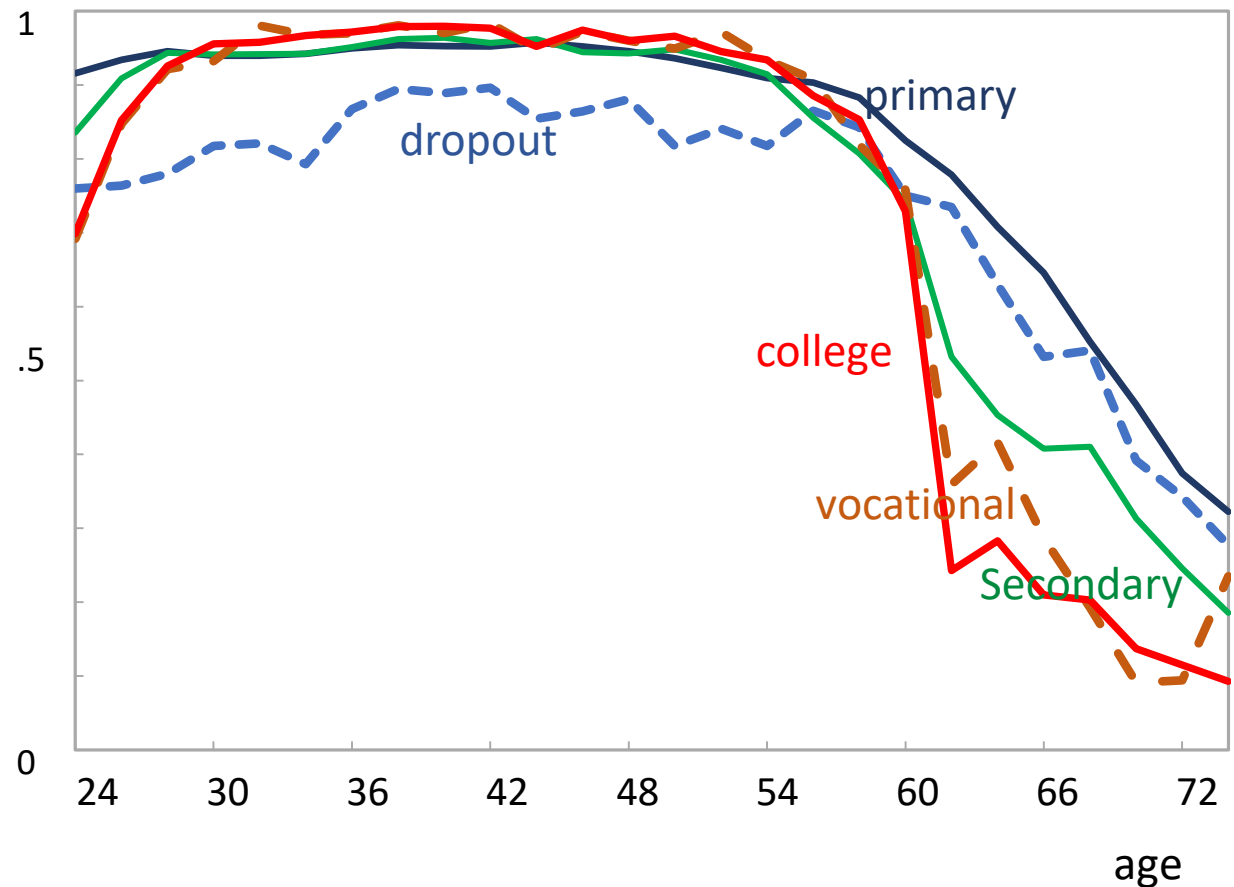
labor force participation over life-cycle

US men



Source: Keane & Wasi (2016)

Thai men



## Institutional factors

**Mandatory retirement age** (specified by gov. or firms) :

**Thailand:** gov workers 60      private sector : specified by firms normally 55-60

Illegal in most developed countries

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**Mandatory retirement age** (specified by gov. or firms) :

**Thailand:** gov workers 60      private sector : specified by firms normally 55-60

Illegal in most developed countries

**Social Security provision :**

Age eligibility for pension

US : 62

France : 60

Australia : 65

Japan : 60

Singapore : 64

Indonesia : 56

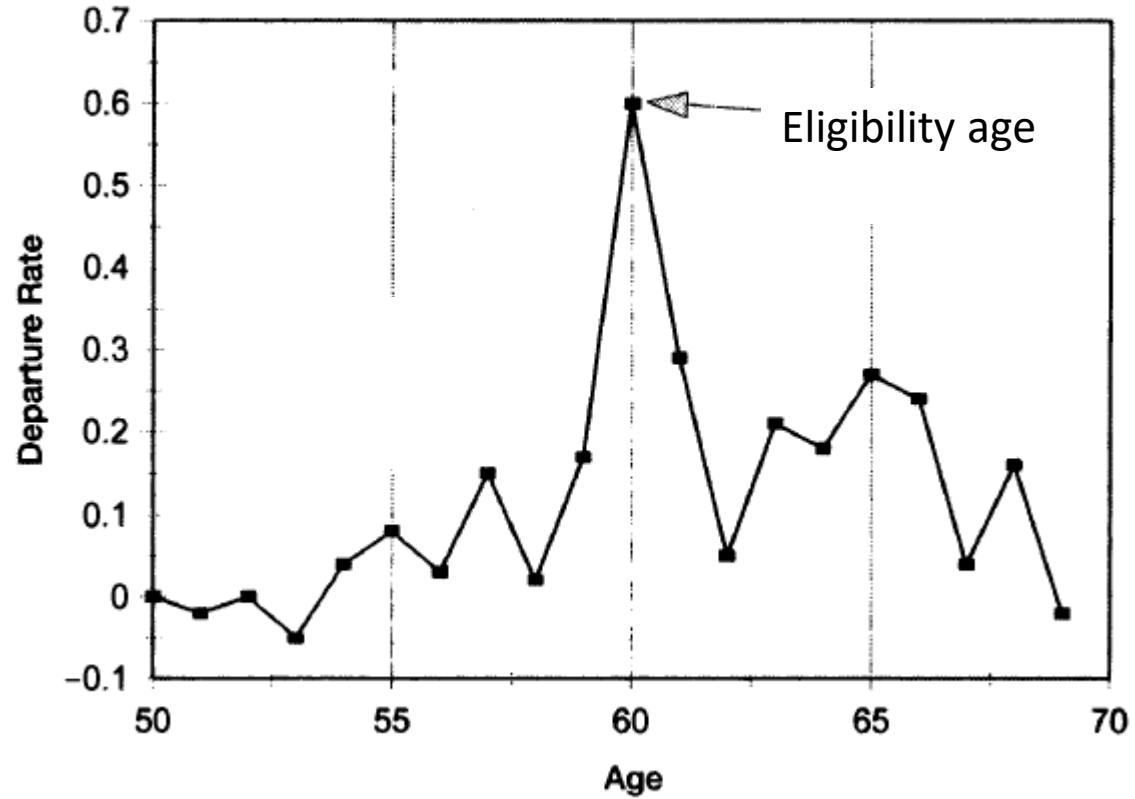
**Thailand** : 55

Philippines : 60



## France

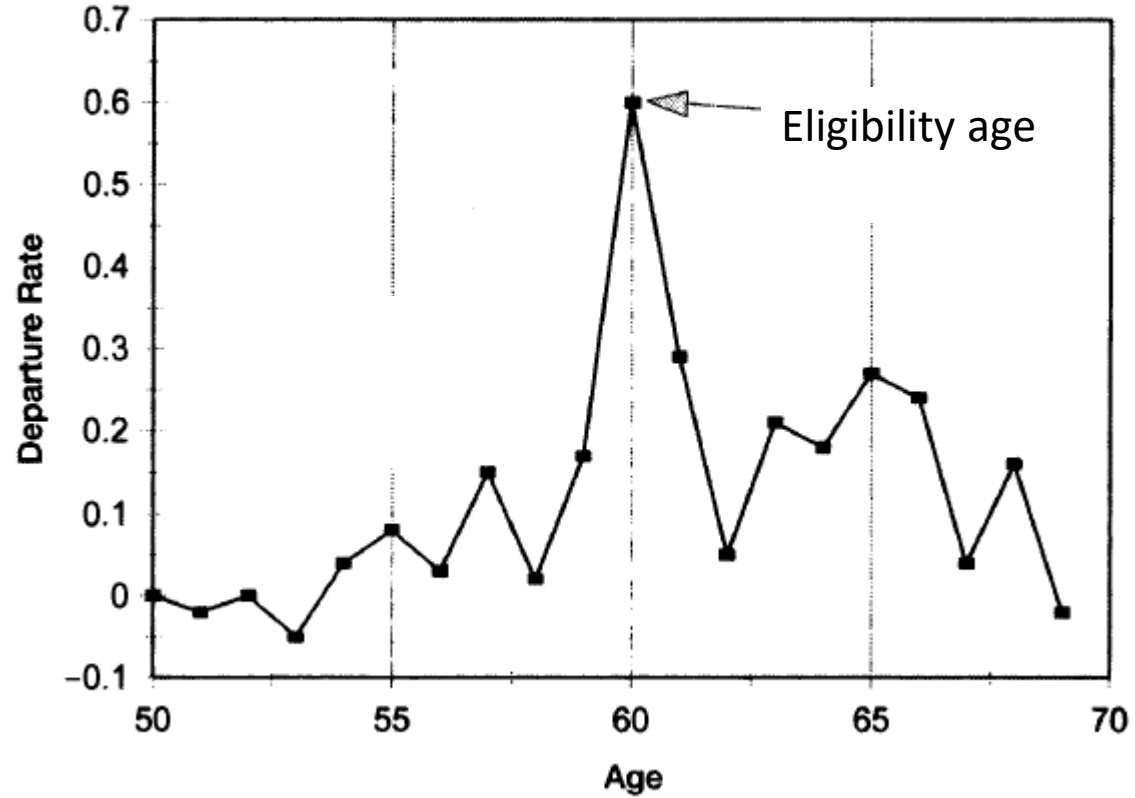
### Rates of leaving employment by age



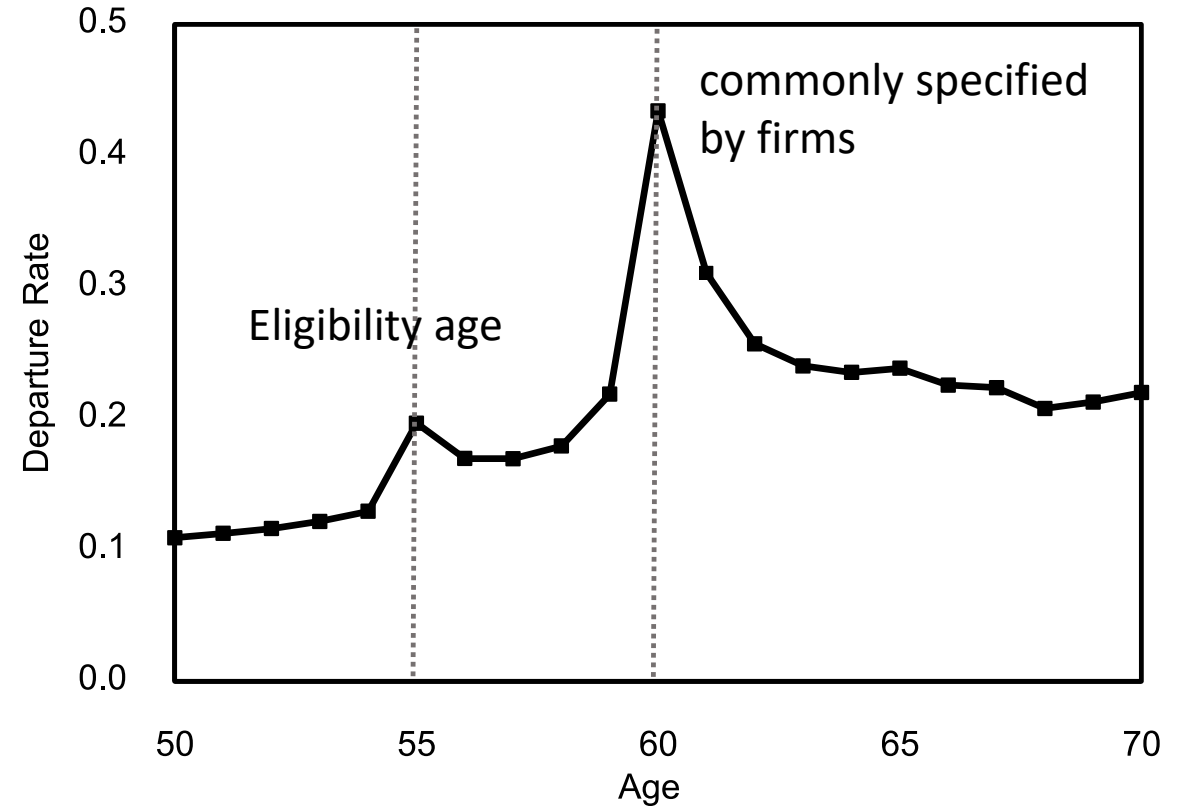
Source: Gruber and Wise (1998)

## France

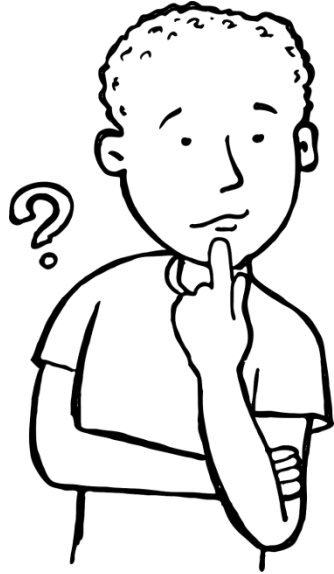
Rates of leaving employment by age



## Thailand



Source: Gruber and Wise (1998)



**Is retiring at 55 or 60 a problem?**

# The shrinking labor force capacity

$$\text{Labor force capacity} = \text{Number of workers} \times \text{Years in lifetime working}$$

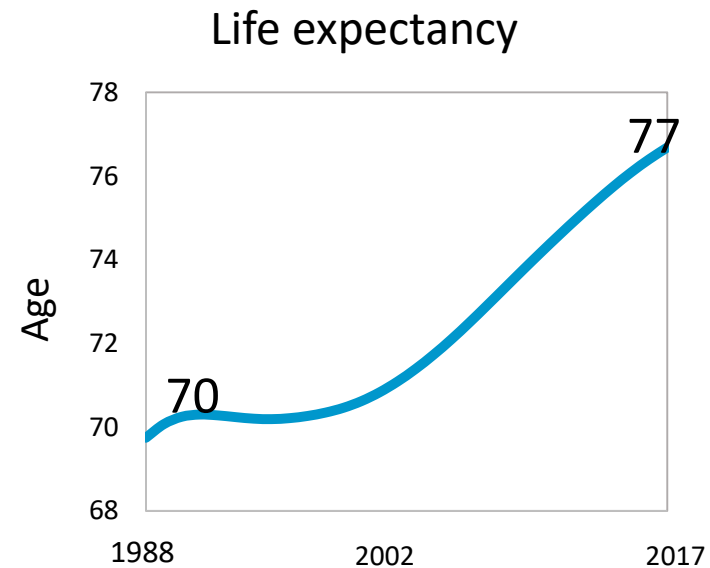
low fertility rate ↓

# The shrinking labor force capacity

$$\text{Labor force capacity} = \text{Number of workers} \times \text{Years in lifetime working}$$

low fertility rate ↓

?

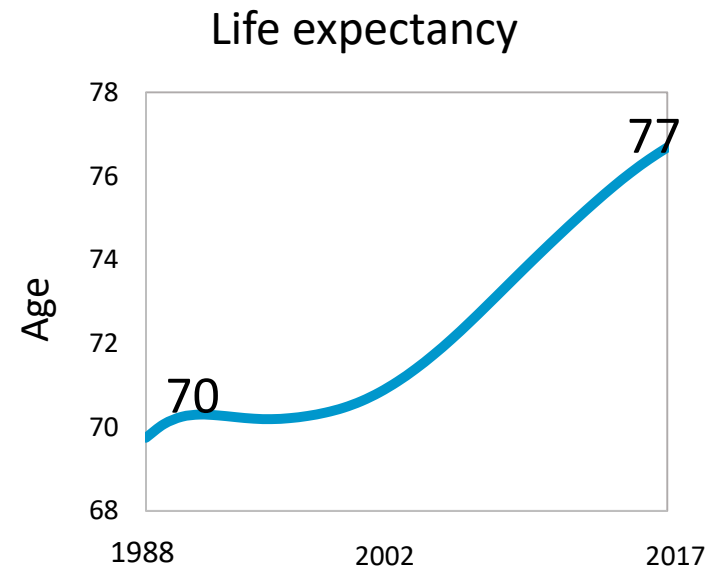


Healthy life expectancy : 67

# The shrinking labor force capacity

$$\text{Labor force capacity} = \text{Number of workers} \times \text{Years in lifetime working}$$

low fertility rate

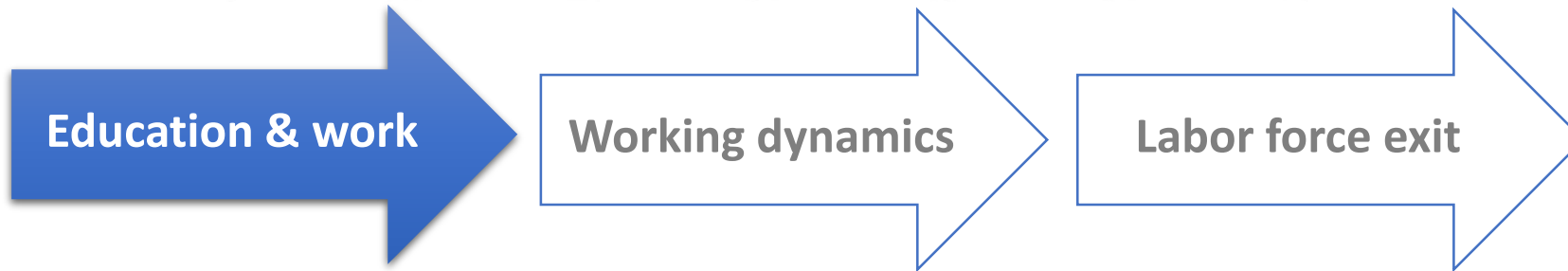


Healthy life expectancy : 67

Living longer, but still retiring at 60 ?

**Concern #3 : We could have done more  
to slowdown the shrinking labor force**

# Have we reached our potential? : key findings



*mismatches between  
education & jobs*



# Have we reached our potential? : key findings



*mismatches between education & jobs*

*many workers are left behind*

# Have we reached our potential? : key findings



Education & work

Working dynamics

Labor force exit

*mismatches between  
education & jobs*

*many workers are  
left behind*

*likely have unused  
productive capacity*

# How to unlock our full potential?



Education & work

Working dynamics

Labor force exit

*mismatches between  
education & jobs*

*many workers are  
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*likely have unused  
productive capacity*

# Policy Implications



*mismatches between education & jobs*



*many workers are left behind*



*likely have unused productive capacity*

Is it a problem of “skills” or “jobs”?

Education quantity vs. quality      High-skill job creation

more flexible training to reflect the rapid changing demand

# Policy Implications



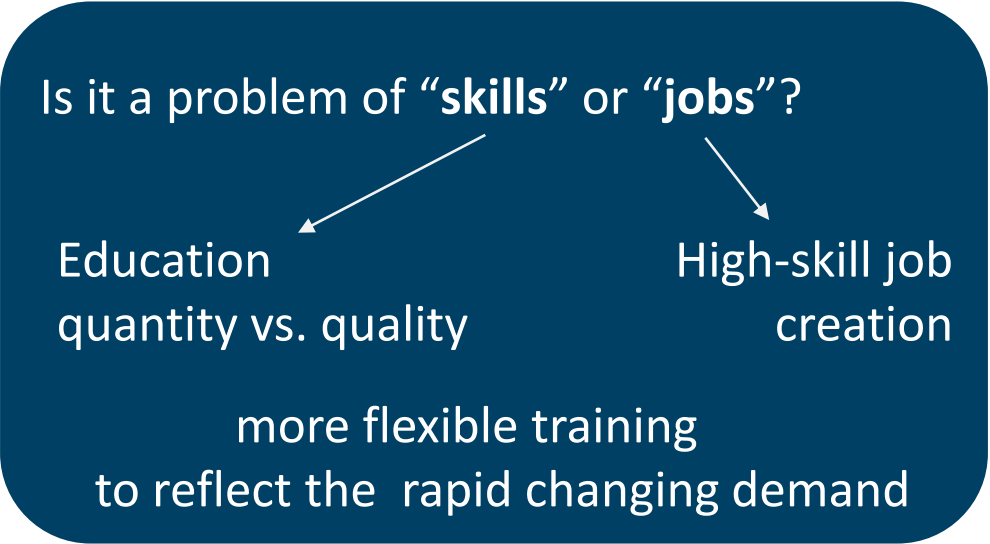
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# Policy Implications



*mismatches between education & jobs*



*many workers are left behind*



*likely have unused productive capacity*

Is it a problem of “skills” or “jobs”?

Education quantity vs. quality      High-skill job creation

more flexible training to reflect the rapid changing demand

Equal opportunities

Older workers:

**retain** the productive ones  
&  
**re-train** the unproductive ones



**We need our people & society as a whole to help the country reach its potential and move toward competitiveness**