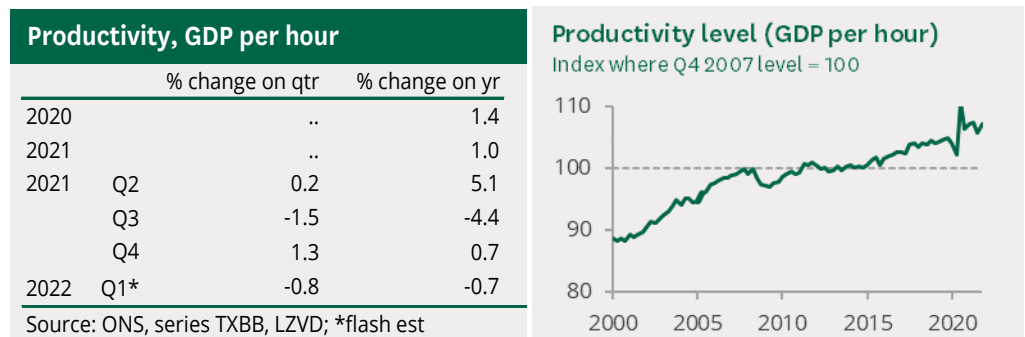


A4: Productivity

One of the most important factors in determining living standards over the long term is productivity – how much output is produced for a given input (such as an hour of work).

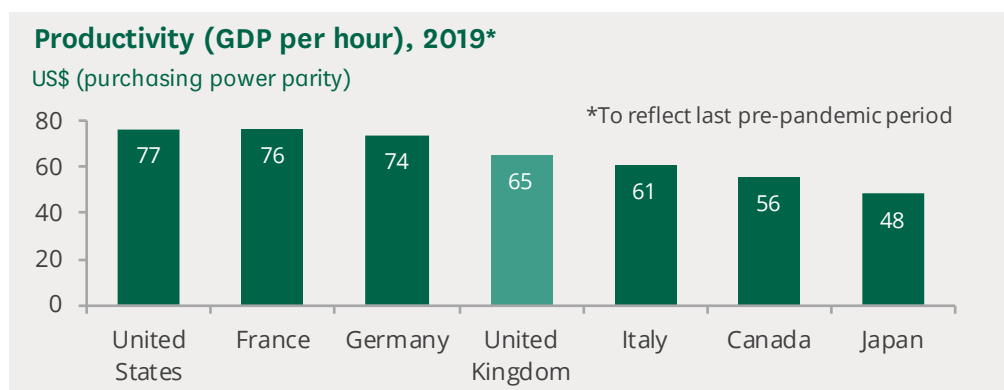
UK labour productivity

In Q1 2022, [productivity fell by 0.8%](#) compared with the previous quarter according to the latest ONS flash estimate. Productivity was around 1.9% higher in Q1 2022 than before the pandemic (Q4 2019). The [effects of the pandemic](#) present [significant challenges](#) in the measurement of productivity. This likely means [underlying productivity trends](#) will be difficult to discern for a little while yet.



Historically, UK labour productivity has grown by around 2% per year but since the 2008/2009 recession it has risen more slowly (see chart above).

In 2019, ranked on [GDP per hour worked](#), the UK came fourth highest out of the G7 countries, with France and the US top and Japan bottom. UK productivity was around 15% below the US and France.



Subject Specialist
Daniel Harari

Updates

ONS, [UK productivity flash estimates](#), 7 July 2022

ONS, [UK productivity bulletin](#), July 2022

OECDstat, [G7 labour productivity levels](#)

[Evidence](#) from the OECD (incorporated in the data above) show that the UK's productivity gap with the G7 average is not as great as was previously thought, due to the different ways countries measure hours worked. The ONS is [exploring this research](#).