

want to know more about productivity?

NBER Productivity Program, <http://www.nber.org/programs/p/p.html> — features a complete list of National Bureau of Economic Research working papers related to productivity.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/lpc/faqs.htm> — eleven frequently asked questions about productivity.

“A Most Important Number,” Martin and Kathleen Feldstein, National Bureau of Economic Research web site. <http://www.nber.org/feldstein/bgo81401.html>

“Living Standards & Economic Growth: A Primer,” New England Economic Adventure web site — looks at the relationship between productivity and standard of living. <http://www.economicadventure.org/teachers/primer.pdf>

“Productivity Growth,” Evan Koenig, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas — a single, clearly written page on what productivity is and why it’s important. <http://www.dallasfed.org/eyi/usecon/0003growth.html>

Backgrounders: Productivity — a one-page summary of why productivity matters. <http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/backgrounders/bg-p4.htm>

“Revolutions in Productivity,” *2000 Annual Report*, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis — an entire issue on productivity and economic growth. Be sure to check out the section on “Inventions That Made History.” <http://www.stls.frb.org/publications/ar/2000/index.html>



“As Easy As P.I.E.: Productivity, Innovation, and Education,” Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. http://stlouisfed.org/news/speeches/2002/04_25_02.html

“The Microchip Flexes Its Muscle. Can It Compete with History’s Best?” Kevin L. Kliesen and David C. Wheelock, *The Regional Economist*, July 2001, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis — explores the relationship between high-tech innovation and productivity. The sections on 19th *continued on back cover*

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continued from page 17

and early 20th century productivity advances is particularly interesting. <http://www.stls.frb.org/publications/re/2001/c/pages/lead-article.html>

Are We in a Productivity Boom? Evidence from Multifactor Productivity Growth, Paul W. Bauer, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland — “explores the relationship between labor productivity and multifactor productivity, a measure that accounts for factors other than technological improvement. It concludes that MFP provides a better measure of productivity due solely to technical change.” <http://www.clev.frb.org/Research/Com99/1015.htm>

“Mass Production,” http://www.willamette.edu/~fthompson/MgmtCon/Mass_Production.html — short, clear explanations of mass production, machine tools and interchangeable parts, the assembly line, and the effects of mass production on the organization of work.

“Henry Ford and the Model T” — focuses on how Ford put America on wheels by increasing productivity and bringing down the price of cars. <http://www.wiley.com/legacy/products/subject/business/forbes/ford.html>

The Michigan Historical Museum’s web site has a section on productivity in the auto industry’s early years. <http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/museum/explore/museums/hismus/1900-75/erlyauto/onwheels.html>

Adirondack History Network — the section on women’s lives takes you back to a time when life was labor-intensive. <http://adirondackhistory.org>

An Outline of American History, Chapter 7: “Growth and Transformation” — looks at the 19th century period when America transformed itself “from a rural republic to an urban state.” <http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/history/ch7.htm>

The Shape of Twentieth Century Economic History, J. Bradford DeLong, National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper No. w7569, February 2000 <http://www.nber.org/papers/w7569>

From the American System to Mass Production, 1800-1932, David a Hounshell, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1984 — a classic that covers the development of manufacturing technology in the United States.

“The New England Textile Industry, 1825-60: Trends and Fluctuations,” Lance E. Davis and H. Louis Stettler III. Included in *Output, Employment, and Productivity in the United States After 1800*, National Bureau of Economic Research, Studies in Income and Wealth, Vol. 30, 1966. — this article is almost 35 years old and hard to find, but it contains lots of useful data.

