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“Measuring Intangible Assets and Their Contribution to Growth”

Can intangibles and digital adoption lift productivity growth? Firm-level evidence from the Netherlands

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This paper analyses the role of intangibles and digital adoption for firm-level productivity in the Netherlands. Drawing on a panel of Dutch enterprises, it provides robust evidence on productivity effects of intangibles, digital technology adoption, and digital skill use at work using exogenous firm-level variation in exposure to sector-wide advances in digital adoption, intangible intensity and the availability of digital skills. Results show that intangible investment has a positive and significant impact on firm-level productivity growth in the service sector and for younger firms, highlighting the productivity potential of intangibles for the Dutch economy. The evidence also suggests that firm-level productivity benefits from digital adoption and digital skill use are positive and sizeable across different digital technologies and measures of digital skill intensity.