**Structural change and the freight transport labor market** Mårten Blix Research Institute of Industrial Economics, Sweden Presentation OECD transport forum in Washington, 2017-01-05 Email: marten.blix@ifn.se <u>www.martenblix.com</u>

### Technology and jobs

- Industrial revolution mainly deskilling
- Complementarity, skill biased technological change
  Autor (2015)
- Job and wage polarization
- Recent evidence on deskilling

## Driving forces

- Demography
- Institutional changes
- Technology

### Dual labor markets on increase



Change in employment protection legislation (EPL) 1990-2013

#### Temporary work on increase



All

Age 15-24

## Automation in services

- Retail
- Writing
- Banking, insurance and legal
- Coding
- Transport



Image: More polarization and revenue pressures

## Routine jobs in decline



Labor market shares 1995-2010

## Many jobs in freight transport

Transportation and storage (left axis)

Freight transport by road (right axis)



# Will 50% of jobs disappear?

- Frey and Osborne (2013)
- Measures what is technically possible
- Job creation vs. job destruction
- Other factors can be more important
  - *Demography*, shrinking work forces
  - Preferences (autonomous passenger flights?)
  - *Costs* (*robochef* \$15 000?)
  - Regulation

#### Risk of job automation, %



## Strategies to adapt: focus on skills

- Uncontroversial to improve skills, but how?
- Regular skills and digital skills, polarization begins in early education
- Digital skills, 50% EU too low to switch jobs
- OECD estimate, low skills doubles risk unemployment
- Big shift to increase life-long learning
- How to finance: private or public?

#### Strategies to adapt: reduce risks

- Dual labor markets insider/outsider problem
- Reduce risks with self-employment
  - More responsibility on individual
  - Outside collective wage bargaining
  - Social security and statuary benefits
  - Make it easier to pay tax

# Summary

- Productivity growth key to future prosperity
- Mitigate effects of structural change
  - Increased skills
  - Reduce differences in risk between labor market outsiders and insiders

Thank you!

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