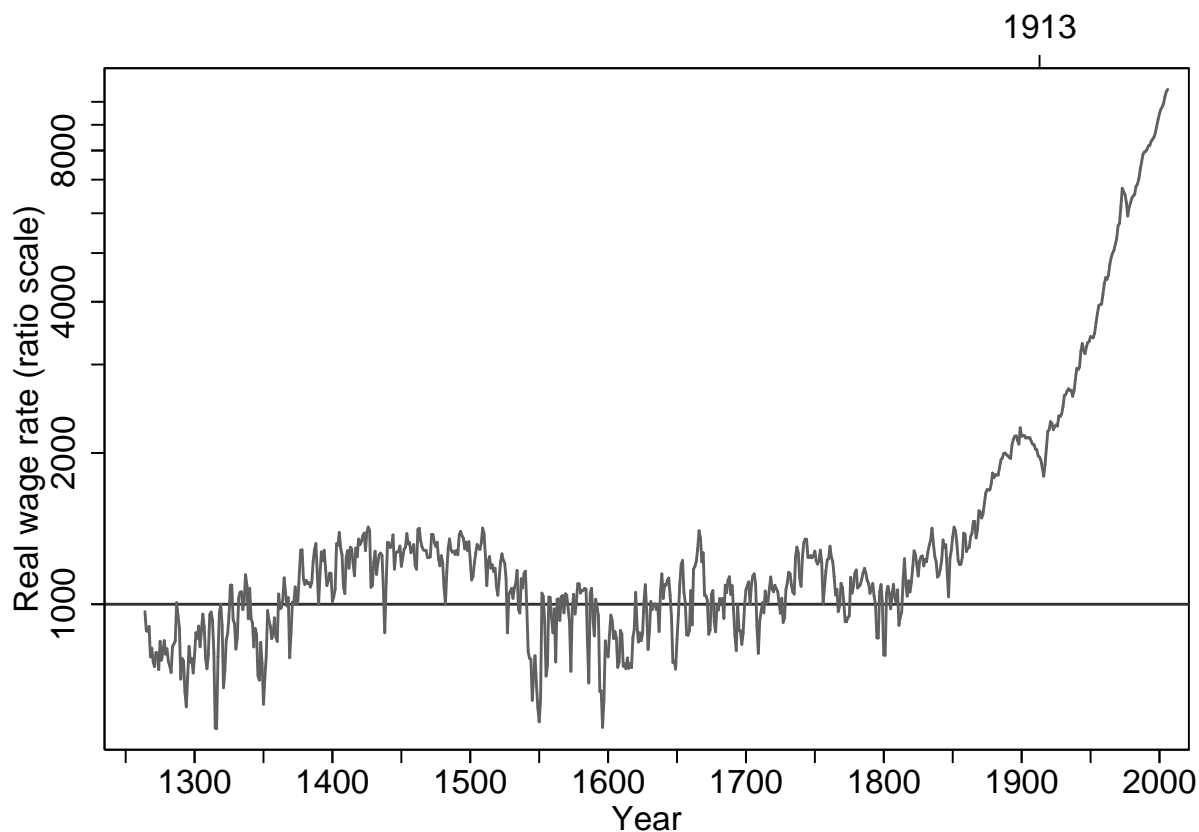


EC120 The World Economy in Historical Perspective

Real wages in England since 1264



The above graph plots an index of real wages (wages measured in terms of the goods they will purchase) in England from 1264 to 2005.

Notice that the vertical axis plots real wages on a *ratio scale* (i.e. it plots the logarithm of real wages). This means that a straight line between any two points represents a constant *proportional* (i.e. percentage) rate of change.

Data sources:

1264–1913 Allen, R. C. “The Great Divergence in European Wages and Prices from the Middle Ages to the First World War”, *Explorations in Economic History* vol. 38, 2001, pp. 411–447. (The series is for the real wages of London craftsmen.)

1913–1990 Scholliers, P. and V. Zamagni (eds), *Labour’s reward: real wages and economic change in 19th- and 20th-century Europe*, Edward Elgar, 1995, appendix A24.

1990–2006 UK Office of National Statistics