

1. The definition of graduate job

Your definition of graduate job is: a job “where a substantial portion of the skills used are normally acquired in the course of higher education, including many of the activities surrounding it, and of its aftermath—the years after higher education when skills are acquired in work through graduates’ acquired faculty for learning them”.

In the economic literature one can point out different procedures for the definition of graduate job. One of the main difference among these procedures is that while some scholars, in order to define whether a job is a graduate job or not, use job analysts' assessment, others, such as you, prefer the assessment of job holders.

The answer by job holders can be biased.

Do these different procedures result into substantial differences in the definition of graduate jobs or do they turn out to produce alike results ?

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The AlmaLaurea questionnaire devotes a few questions about the use of skills acquired during university education and their relevance for working activities. Do you think that the information obtained through this questionnaire can be an effective tool for the definition of graduate job?

2.

Some stylised facts

- 1) Low growth rate in labour productivity
- 2) Low growth rate in real wages
- 3) Process of polarisation of the labour market: erosion of medium-skilled jobs and increase especially in the low-skilled jobs.

Your contribution is consistent with a famous paper by Goldin, Katz (2007) based on a disequilibrium approach between the demand for skills, driven by technology, and the supply of skills, driven by a set of agents among others the higher education system.

Technology and education race.

Do you think that the low incidence of graduates in the Italian labour market depends on bottlenecks on the supply side or do you think that it is a demand driven phenomenon related to the low level of investments by the productive sectors?

Another crucial point. We often hear complaints by entrepreneurs about shortage in the supply of manual workers and in general with medium skills. According to this position, the shortage of this kind of workers is much more severe than the lack of graduates. Do you think that the dynamics of polarization in the Italian labour market confirm this idea?

If one believes that the shortage of medium-skilled workers is much more severe than the lack of graduates, then one should not be much worried if the percentage of graduates in the Italian labour market does not tend to converge towards the levels of countries with the highest incidence of graduates.