Comments on the World Bank Report
“At Your Service?
The Promise of Services-Led Development”

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The report discusses the service sector in 4 groups:

- Global innovator services:
  - professional, scientific, and technical services, ICT, finance
- Low-skill tradable services:
  - transportation, warehousing, wholesale, accommodation and food
- Skill-intensive social services:
  - education, health
- Low skill domestic services:
  - retail, administrative and support services

The report also examines whether technology can narrow the productivity-jobs dichotomy and whether the service sector can grow without a manufacturing base.
Comments

1. Regional perspectives: regional dynamism and existing conditions may matter.

2. The role of FDI?
Asia’s non-agricultural employment share and productivity in 2000

- Non-Agricultural employment in 2000: 47%
- Manufacturing took the largest share in the non-agricultural employment, followed by Retail, Wholesale, Accommodation & Food.
- Limited employment shares by higher productivity subsectors (Business and Finance)

Countries covered:
Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam

Note: Mining, Utilities, Real Estate and Government subsector excluded
Source: Calculations based on Economic Transformation Database by the GGDC/UNU-WIDER (2021)
Asia’s non-agricultural employment share and productivity in 2018

✓ Non-Agricultural employment in 2000: 68%
✓ Manufacturing employment share shrank while its productivity increased substantially.
✓ Productivities of the service subsectors also improved.

Note: Mining, Utilities, Real Estate and Government subsector excluded

Source: Calculations based on Economic Transformation Database by the GGDC/UNU-WIDER (2021)
Sub-Saharan Africa's non-agricultural employment share and productivity in 2000

- Non-Agricultural employment in 2000: 31%
- Manufacturing employment share was lower in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Retail, Wholesale, Accommodation & Food took the largest employment share.

Countries covered:
Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

Note: Mining, Utilities, Real Estate and Government subsector excluded
Source: Calculations based on Economic Transformation Database by the GGDC/UNU-WIDER (2021)
Sub-Saharan Africa’s non-agricultural employment share and productivity in 2018

✓ Non-Agricultural employment in 2018: 48%
✓ Manufacturing employment share shrank and more employment in multiple service subsectors.
✓ Increased employment in Business and Finance is encouraging but the productivity of each sector has not improved or even become lower.

Non-Agricultural employment in 2018: 48%
Manufacturing employment share shrank and more employment in multiple service subsectors.
Increased employment in Business and Finance is encouraging but the productivity of each sector has not improved or even become lower.

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