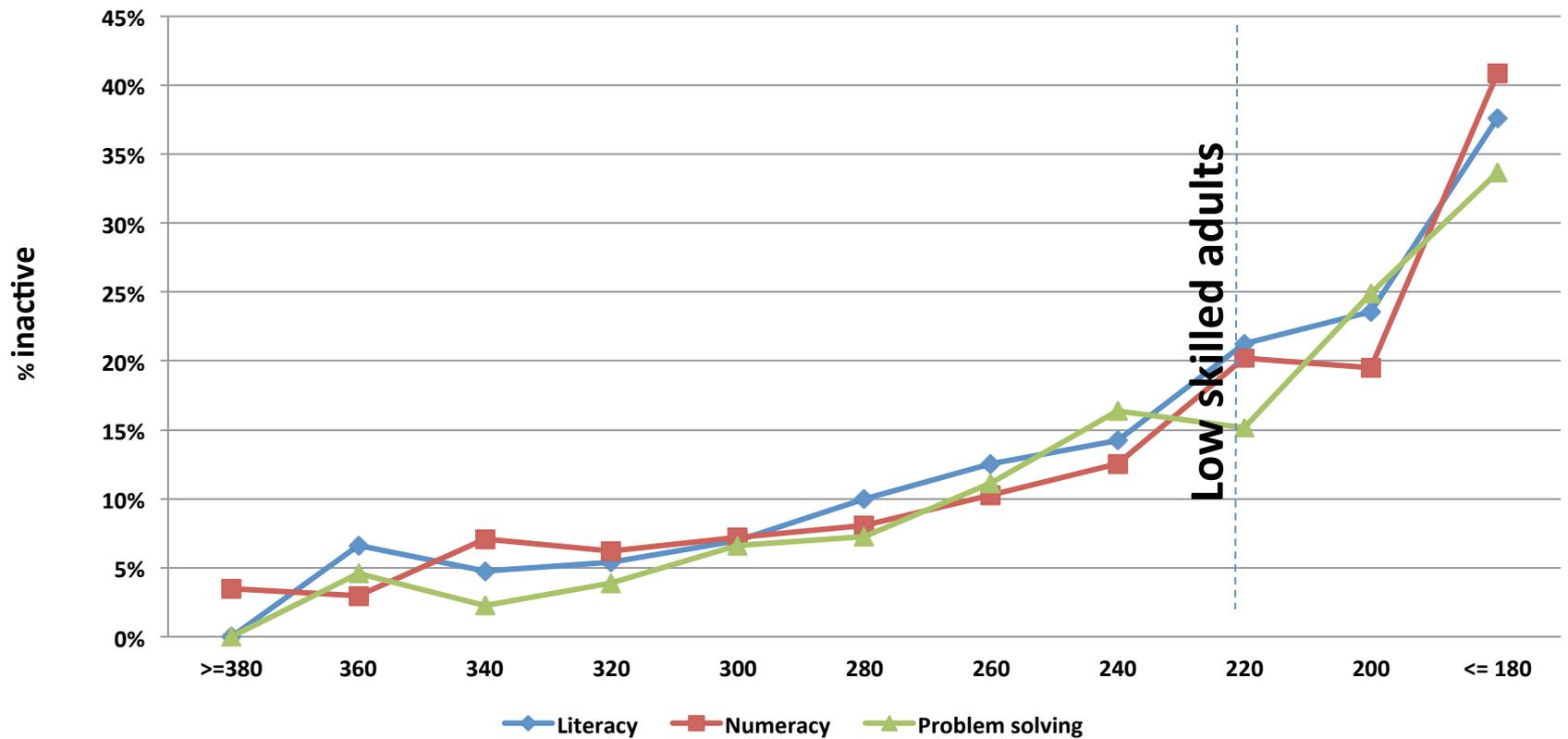


How can investment in skills and higher education impact growth?

Marieke Buisman

# Why skills matter



# Netherlands

- 40% of young people take part in higher education
- Adults in the Netherlands show above-average proficiency in basic skills
- Extensive (medium and higher) vocational education system ensures link between education and labour market
- Good match between workers' skills and the tasks they are asked to perform in their jobs

## But there are challenges:

- Labour market demands for skills **change** at an increasing rate,
- Forecast show decreasing demand for low and medium skilled workers, while **demand for high skilled workers will increase**
- Participation in lifelong learning **stagnates**, and is especially low in (formal) higher education.
- **Training** is often short in duration, and does not promote intersectoral mobility

# Higher education plays important role in meeting challenges

- **Flexible higher education** (modular, demand driven funding)
- Higher education Centres of expertise: **public-private partnerships** that stimulate technical innovation in businesses, state-of-the-art technical education and lifelong learning of employees
- Government stimulates **intersectoral mobility** (work-to-work transition)