Preface

One way or another, I have been engaged in writing this book ever since I completed the manuscript of *The Productivity Race: British Manufacturing in International Perspective, 1850–1990*, and in many ways this book can be thought of as the second volume of a sectoral study of Britain's productivity performance. It has been a long journey, and I have incurred many debts along the way. I thank all the patient listeners at seminar and conference presentations, and all those who offered constructive criticisms. In particular, I wish to thank without in any way implicating Gerben Bakker, Martin Campbell-Kelly, Nick Crafts, Charles Feinstein, Alex Field, Rainer Fremdling, Sayantan Ghosal, Les Hannah, Angus Maddison, Andrew Marrison, Bob Millward, Mary O'Mahony, Albrecht Ritschl and Peter Wardley. The chapters in part III have benefited from the reactions of undergraduate students at Warwick taking the third-year module on 'The British Economy in the Twentieth Century'.

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I owe a particular debt of gratitude to my wife, Mary O'Mahony, and to the forbearance of our children, Laura and Edward, to whom the book is dedicated.

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