

Effect of the shift of the Production Function in the Classical System

In the Classical system the equilibrium levels of real wage rate (w/P) and employment (N) are given by the point of intersection between the labour demand curve and the labour supply curve. The demand for labour is a decreasing function of w/P and this function is obtained from the aggregate production function, $Y = f(N)$. The $f'(N)$ function is the labour demand function for the economy. So if the production function shifts upward, indicating an increase in the productivity of labour at each level of employment, the labour demand function would also shift to the right. In the following diagram the original production function is $Y = f(N)$ and the new production function is $Y' = f(N)$. Corresponding to these functions we get MPL_1 and MPL_2 curves respectively as labour demand functions. So the original equilibrium values of w/P , N and Y are $(w/P)_1$, N_1 and Y_1 respectively. Here the new equilibrium values of these real variables are $(w/P)_2$, N_2 and Y_2 respectively. We see that $(w/P)_2 > (w/P)_1$, $N_2 > N_1$ and $Y_2 > Y_1$. The diagram also shows that with the upward shift of the production function and the consequent increase in (w/P) and Y , the equilibrium price level falls from P_1 to P_2 and the money wage rate also falls from w_1 to w_2 .

