This book assesses the efforts of successive British government policies to promote the vocational education, training and employment of young people. Based on extensive field research, it presents a comprehensive survey of this important and developing branch of labour economics. The author looks at the subject both historically and analytically, using an examination of human capital theory and the economic theory of training to provide a context for his research. He relates demographic, educational, economic and technological developments to the effects of successive government training and employment schemes on young people, on employers and on the national economy. He looks at the relationship between the attainment of skills by young people on official training schemes and the demand for skills, and goes on to examine the views of critics of government policies and the reactions of the trade unions. Through a comparison with the alternative, no-policy position, Mr Deakin detects an erratic policy-learning process which has important implications for future government policy in this area.
University of Cambridge
Department of Applied Economics

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The youth labour market in Britain: the role of intervention

B. M. DEAKIN
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Preface and acknowledgements

Preface

The purpose of this study is to examine and assess the role of intervention by government in the youth labour market in Britain. The economic context of that intervention is drawn in broad terms and the subject is treated historically and analytically.

In recent years the results of a large amount of specialised academic and policy-oriented research have been published on various aspects of this subject. In the present study a broader treatment is offered. This is because, over time, demographic, educational and economic factors have changed greatly and have influenced conditions in the youth labour market. A study of these factors is seen as necessary to the assessments of the impact of government intervention which are made here. The chief aim of these assessments is to estimate the effects of policies upon the youth labour market and upon the employability of young people compared with the alternative, no-policy position. With the future in mind, an attempt is also made to detect the existence of a policy-learning process.

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Preface and acknowledgements

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All of those named above are of course entirely innocent of any errors of fact or analysis which may remain in the text and for which I am solely responsible.

B.M.D.
April 1995