

FOREWORD

Over the past few years, productivity and economic growth have been an important focus of OECD work. This work has included both efforts to improve the measurement of productivity growth, as shown in the development of the OECD Productivity Manual, published in 2001, as well as work to enhance the understanding of the drivers of productivity performance. In the course of this work, questions about data choices and the measurement of productivity were examined at several occasions. At the same time, OECD was confronted with a growing interest in internationally comparable data on productivity growth.

The continued interest of many OECD member countries in productivity led to a decision to develop an OECD Productivity Database, based on data that were considered to be as comparable and consistent across countries as possible. This database and related information on methods and sources is available through the OECD Internet site and free of charge at:

www.oecd.org/statistics/productivity

In 2005, a large number of indicators on productivity were combined in one document for the first time to coincide with an OECD workshop on productivity measurement, held in Madrid. The present document constitutes the 2007-2008 update of the productivity compendium. It draws on the OECD Productivity Database, but also includes indicators drawn from other sources, such as the OECD STAN database, which enables productivity calculations for individual industries, and the OECD System of Unit Labour Costs and Related Indicators.

The compendium includes indicators as well as methodological notes and describes the measurement challenges and data choices that were made as well as the remaining measurement problems. Further details are available in a number of specific annexes.

Texts, tables and graphs presented in this compendium are available on-line at the following address:

www.oecd.org/statistics/productivity/compendium

The present document was prepared by the OECD Statistics Directorate (STD) and the Economic Analysis and Statistics Division (EAS) of OECD's Directorate for Science, Technology, and Industry (STI). Agnès Cimper, Julien Dupont, Joaquim Oliveira-Martins and Paul Schreyer prepared the text, tables and graphs presented in the compendium. Additional contributions to text and tables from Nadim Ahmad, Benoît Arnaud, David Brackfield, Colin Webb and Pascal Marianna are gratefully acknowledged. Joseph Loux supervised the publication process.