Centre for the Study of Living Standards

Press Release

November 27, 2025

The Centre for the Study of Living Standards and The Productivity Institute at the University of Manchester released the 49th issue of the International Productivity Monitor today. The table of contents of the issue, with links to the articles, is below. Key findings of the articles are also highlighted below.

- The lead article by Gilbert Cette from NEOMA Business School, Jimmy Lopez from Université de Bourgogne, Giuseppe Nicoletti from LUISS University and Océane Vernerey from Université de Bourgogne examines the potential impact pro-competitive regulatory reforms on productivity and growth in Canada. It finds that regulation in upstream sectors, which supply inputs to the rest of the economy has a negative impact of productivity. If Canada were to adopt best international regulatory practice in these sectors, especially retail and wholesale trade and professional services, GDP per capita could rise in the long run between 6.5 and 10 per cent, depending on the reforms implemented.

- Dan Andrews, Balázs Égert and Christine de La Maisonneuve from the OECD use the results of the 2023 Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) to show that there is a positive relationship across countries between labour productivity and the average level of adult skills at the industry level, reflecting in part the link between adult skills and R&D intensity.

- Ulrich Kohli from the University of Geneva argues that the reason labour productivity is not a suitable measure of technological change is that it ignores the role of capital in the

production process. He proposes a new productivity measure called Total Labour Productivity that takes the usage of capital into account, finding that the growth rate of this measure is between traditional labour productivity and total factor productivity.

- Robin Shaban from 2R Strategy examines the productivity impact of the adoption of efficiencies defense for mergers in competition law. She finds evidence that introducing efficiencies defense is associated with higher total factor productivity growth, due to greater economies of scale and scope.

- Barbara Fraumeni from the University of Southern Maine, using the PIAAC results on skills, finds that the efficiency of workers varies by age, with workers above 35 less efficient than those in the 25-34 age group. She applied these age-group efficiency adjustments to total hours worked in the United States from 1976 to 2013 and finds that the difference between age efficiency adjusted and non-adjusted hours worked is only 0.01 percentage point, with minimal effects on total factor productivity growth.

- An important contribution to the Beyond GDP debate in 2025 is the book *The Measure of Progress: Counting What Really Matters* by Diane Coyle. Paul Schreyer from ESCoE, and former OECD Chief Statistician, reviews what he calls her thought-provoking critique of the System of National Accounts, but argues that GDP remains a good tool for gauging economic developments.

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Andrew Sharpe, Bart van Ark and Paul Schreyer
[Editors' Overview](#)

Gilbert Cétte, Jimmy Lopez, Giuseppe Nicoletti and Océane Verneréy
[The Potential Impact of Pro-competitive Regulatory Reforms on Productivity and Growth in Canada](#)

Dan Andrews, Balázs Égert and Christine de La Maisonneuve
[Adult Skills and Productivity: New Evidence from PIAAC 2023](#)

Ulrich Kohli

[Labour Productivity as a Measure of Technological Change](#)

Robin Shaban

[The Relationship between Efficiencies Defenses for Mergers and TFP Growth](#)

Barbara M. Fraumeni

[Efficiency Adjustment of Hours Worked: Two Possible Modifications of a Jorgensen Production Model](#)

Paul Schreyer

[Is the SNA Still Useful? A Review Article on The Measure of Progress: Counting What Really Matters](#)

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