

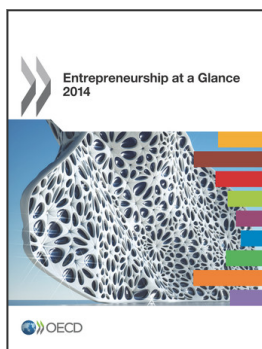
Foreword

Entrepreneurship at a Glance presents key indicators on entrepreneurship. Until recently, most entrepreneurship research relied on ad hoc data compilations developed to support specific projects and virtually no official statistics on the subject existed. The collection of harmonised indicators presented in this publication is the result of the OECD-Eurostat Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme (EIP). The programme, started in 2006, is the first attempt to compile and publish international data on entrepreneurship from official government statistical sources. Indeed, to meet the challenge of providing new entrepreneurship indicators, while minimising costs for national statistical offices and burden on business, the programme focuses attention on exploiting existing sources of data instead of developing new business surveys.

Informing policy design through the development of policy-relevant indicators is at the core of the EIP programme, and much attention is paid to responding to information needs. In particular, the global financial crisis has highlighted the need for more timely information on the situation of small businesses. To that purpose, Entrepreneurship at a Glance henceforth features an opening section on recent trends in entrepreneurship, discussing new data on new firm creations, bankruptcies, self-employment and venture capital. Also, the publication presents time series for the main indicators, to provide a temporal perspective; breakdowns by sector, to illustrate the diversity of patterns; and simple correlations between indicators to assist the interpretation of results.

The publication was prepared under the co-ordination of Mariarosa Lunati in the Trade and Competitiveness Statistics Division of the OECD Statistics Directorate, with contributions by Gueram Sargsyan and Liliana Suchodolska (as main co-authors), Frédéric Parrot, Mario Piacentini, Blandine Serve and Anita Woelfl. Nadim Ahmad provided guidance and comments.

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