

Preface

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 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 data sources, e.g. statistical business registers, rather than 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 emerging areas of interest. This issue of Entrepreneurship at a Glance presents new work on women entrepreneurship undertaken by the EIP as part of the OECD Gender Initiative, whose aim is to promote gender equality in “the three E’s”, Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship. The lack of solid and reliable information on women entrepreneurship constitutes a challenge when considering how to boost entrepreneurship among women. The EIP investigated how to meaningfully measure women entrepreneurship, and proposed a methodology for producing indicators on entrepreneurship by gender of the enterprise owner. This resulted in a new collection of original gender-specific statistics to help governments create a more level playing field and promote equality.

The global financial crisis has highlighted the need for more timely information on the situation of small businesses. This edition of Entrepreneurship at a Glance includes new data on firm creations and bankruptcies, adding to the set of timely entrepreneurship indicators collected by the EIP. This is just the beginning: further developments in this area will be presented in future editions of this publication.

This report is divided into two parts. The first presents conceptual and methodological issues related to the gender dimension of entrepreneurship and the measurement of indicators for entrepreneurial finance.

The second part provides detailed indicators of entrepreneurial performance, including structural data of the enterprise population and indicators of business demography, and a special section devoted to gender-specific entrepreneurship indicators. This part also contains a selection of indicators of entrepreneurial determinants.

The publication was prepared in the Trade and Business Statistics Division of the OECD Statistics Directorate by Mario Piacentini, Blandine Serve, Gueram Sargsyan and Annamaria Tuske under the leadership of Mariarosa Lunati. Manfred Schmiemann and Perrine Bamps, and Aleksandra Stawinska of Eurostat contributed respectively to Chapter 2 and to the compilation

of the indicators of entrepreneurial performance. Particular thanks go to experts in National Statistical Offices who contributed data and time to produce the original indicators for Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.



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