
FOREWORD

BRICS, as known worldwide, is a Group of leading emerging economies playing a key role in the world economic development scenario. BRICS Group of nations consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, has not only received unprecedented global attention in recent years but it is expected to play a more critical role in future. Providing BRICS data in a publication, therefore, is an important initiative towards harmonization of BRICS statistical information.

This publication providing important BRICS data is a result of joint efforts of all BRICS National Statistical Offices (NSOs). The first BRIC publication was released in the BRIC Summit held in Brazil in April 2010 and the second BRICS publication was released in the BRICS Summit held in China in April 2011. The present edition 2012 is the third in the series of BRICS publications.

The joint statistical publication of BRICS countries by the very nature of its structure, contents and presentation, is expected to serve as ready reference for political leaders as well as many other users. The importance of publication is set to increase with growing demand for BRICS data following greater role of BRICS countries in future. As such, there is a constant attempt to enhance the scope, quality and presentation of data in the BRICS joint statistical publication to make it more useful and user-friendly.

The successful preparation of joint publications is due to deepening bonding and excellent cooperation between BRICS NSOs which promises more milestones in producing BRICS publications in future. It will also help in achieving better results through active exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge about statistical skills, statistical methodologies and practices, and statistical innovations, for developing a more sound BRICS statistical system.

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