

International Productivity Monitor

The *International Productivity Monitor* is published by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS) to support policy analysis and development in the productivity area. The objective of the *Monitor* is to focus attention on the importance of productivity for improving living standards and quality of life. The *Monitor* publishes high-quality articles on productivity issues, trends and developments in Canada and other countries and serves as a vehicle for the international discussion of productivity topics. Print and on-line versions are published twice a year. The articles are largely non-technical in nature and understandable to a wide audience of productivity researchers and analysts as well as the general public. The publication is distributed electronically to anyone interested in productivity issues on a complimentary basis. While most articles are invited, submissions will be considered. The CSLS thanks the TD Bank for financial support.

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The Centre for the Study of Living Standards

THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF LIVING STANDARDS (CSLS) is a national, independent, not-for-profit research organization which began operations in August 1995. Its objectives are twofold. First, to contribute to a better understanding of trends and determinants of productivity, living standards, and economic well-being in Canada through research. Second, to contribute to public debate by developing and advocating specific policies to improve the standard of living of Canadians.

The activities of the CSLS are motivated by the following general principles:

- 1) in the long run, productivity growth is the key to improved living standards;
- 2) in the short to medium term, elimination of any output gap is the most effective way to raise living standards;
- 3) the equitable sharing of productivity gains among all groups in society is an essential element of the economic growth process;
- 4) increased cooperation among the various groups which make up our society can contribute significantly to better living standards; and
- 5) reliable data are crucial to the monitoring and analysis of living standards and to the development of effective policies to increase living standards.

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