



UNCTAD PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES INDEX

Methodological Approach and Results



UNITED NATIONS



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FOREWORD

Measuring and benchmarking productive capacities globally reveals significant gaps, not only between developed and developing economies, but also among developing countries themselves. The new Productive Capacities Index (PCI) of UNCTAD demonstrates that differences in socioeconomic development across countries and regions are a consequence of gaps in their productive capacities. Structurally weak and vulnerable economies, including the least developed countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) perform particularly poorly on PCI.

These persistent development challenges have been further compounded by novel external shocks and instability, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, climate change effects, a collapse in global commodity prices and waning trust in multilateralism.

Building the economic resiliency of developing countries remains a daunting challenge. It depends fundamentally on creating, maintaining and using productive capacities to advance development. This will require a shift from the current fragmented and project-based interventions towards coherent, economy-wide and programme-based approaches to removing binding constraints on development. Actions and interventions at the domestic level need to be supported and complemented by additional robust international support.

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