



## Why is South African productivity so low?

Date: 7 June 2016

Time: 8:30 – 16:30

Venue: South African Reserve Bank Conference Centre, 370 Helen Joseph St

RSVP: Pontsho Baloyi, [Pontsho.Baloyi@Resbank.co.za](mailto:Pontsho.Baloyi@Resbank.co.za), or Shaista Amod,

[Shaista.Amod@Resbank.co.za](mailto:Shaista.Amod@Resbank.co.za) by 20 May 2016

### Motivation

Productivity is essential to sustainable economic growth; indeed, it is the key determinant thereof. South Africa's productivity has, by any metric, declined over the past 20 years. This workshop on productivity is designed to inform policymakers and to encourage policy-relevant discussion using recent research, presented by experts in the field. Paul Schreyer, Deputy Chief Statistician of the OECD, will give the keynote address. The final session will focus on discussing potential solutions to the policy problem of low South African productivity.

### Draft agenda (to be finalised later this week)

Time	Session	Presenters
8:40	Welcome and introduction	Rashad Cassim (SARB)
9:00 – 11:00	1: Why is productivity growth so low in SA? 1A: Productivity growth in SA and other EMs 1B: Trade and productivity 1C: Competition and productivity  1D: Firm-level/aggregate productivity trends	Channing Arndt (UNU-WIDER)  Marianne Matthee (NWU) Nicola Viegli/Nonso Obikili (UP/ERSA) Lawrence Edwards (UCT)
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:15 – 13:00	2: Productivity developments in the OECD area	Paul Schreyer (OECD)

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 16:00	3: Proposed policy solutions to boost SA productivity	

### Speaker bios

**Paul Schreyer** is Deputy Chief Statistician at the OECD. He is an expert on the measurement of productivity, having authored the OECD’s Measuring Productivity manual as well as other OECD manuals, numerous articles and papers. His research interests include the measurement of productivity and capital, the measurement of non-market activities, environmental indicators and indicators of well-being.

**Channing Arndt** is a senior research fellow at UNU-WIDER, currently coordinating the Regional Growth and Development in South Africa project. He has many years of experience in coordinating research and building institutional capacity.

**Lawrence Edwards** is an Associate Professor in Economics at the University of Cape Town. His research focuses on international trade and associated developments. He is widely published and has consulted for the World Bank and government departments.

**Marianne Matthee** is an Associate Professor in Economics at North-West University and programme leader for International Trade within the department. She is widely published both domestically and internationally.

**Nonso Obikili** is a Policy Associate at Economic Research South Africa. His research interests include economic history and economic development.

**Nicola Viegi** is the SARB Professor of Monetary Economics at the University of Pretoria. His research interests include monetary economics, fiscal policy and monetary policy.