

# Foreword

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The Third Summit of the Heads of State/Government of the BRICS countries will take place in China in April 2011. In order to provide information of the social and economic development in Brazil, China, India, Russia and South Africa for the Summit and for other users, we now present the Joint Statistical Publication by BRICS Countries 2011.

Publication 2011 is the second issue of this series and therefore is another important achievement jointly made with common efforts and close cooperation by the national statistical offices of the five countries.

The Second Meeting of the heads of the national statistical offices of Brazil, China, India and Russia took place in Brazil from November 29 to December 1, 2010, and decided the general framework and guiding principles of Publication 2011. With the participation of South Africa in December 2010, BRIC expanded to BRICS, and Statistics South Africa agreed to the general framework and guiding principles of the Publication and participated in the compilation efforts.

As China is the host nation of the Third Summit of the BRICS Countries in 2011, the National Bureau of Statistics of China has assumed the organization of Publication 2011.

A meeting of technical experts was held in Beijing from January 19 to 21, 2011 with statisticians coming from the five countries. The meeting made detailed discussions on the compilation of Publication 2011 and reached consensus. In following weeks, the five national statistical offices have maintained close communication and completed the compilation successfully.

Publication 2011 includes 15 chapters: The first chapter is a summary one of the entire publication, presenting general information with comparable statistics of the five countries, while the other 14 chapters reflect the different aspects of the past development and current status of the individual countries. In each of the last 14 chapters, there are two components, a summary table with graphs followed by country tables. The summary table and graphs are trying to present comparable information among the five countries while the country tables are showing more detailed information as received from the individual countries.

We are expecting further improvement in the future issues of this publication with a closer cooperation of the national statistical offices involved so as to better serve the future Summits of the BRICS countries and other readers as well.

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