

## Foreword

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This edition of *Trade Policy Research* takes up the general theme of exporter dynamics and productivity. To explore these issues, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) organized a conference on Exporter Dynamics and Productivity on March 27, 2009. This volume builds on the discussions at that conference.

Consistent with the recent focus in the international economics literature on firm-level or product-level analysis, many of the papers in this volume explore the microeconomic underpinnings of the linkage between international engagement—through trade or foreign direct investment—and productivity growth. They highlight the importance of international engagement to Canada's prosperity but also the obstacles that firms must surmount in order to successfully enter and sustain their presence in foreign markets, as well as the contribution that public sector program support can make in helping firms find their footing in foreign markets—including the first-ever econometric assessment of the impact on firm-level export performance of the export promotion services provided by DFAIT's Trade Commissioner Service.

This volume continues the practice of sharing with the wider research community and the interested public the results of trade-and investment-related policy research undertaken within, on behalf of, or in collaboration with Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. Launched in 2001 as part of the response to the Government of Canada's *Policy Research Initiative*, a government-wide effort to re-create and expand its research capacity, the *Trade Policy Research* series is now in its ninth edition.

Previous volumes have followed developments in trade and investment policy, addressed topical issues in international economics such as services trade liberalization and global value chains, and showcased research and analysis conducted within the Government of Canada on various aspects of trade policy