Labour productivity is used to assess a country's economic ability to create and sustain decent employment opportunities.

- Productivity increases obtained through physical and human capital investment, technological progress, or changes in work organisation can increase social protection and reduce vulnerable employment.
- Productivity increases do not guarantee these improvements, but without them improvements are highly unlikely.
- GDP per person employed is a key measure to monitor whether a country is on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

In the period 2000-2018, the average annual exponential growth rate of GDP per person employed (constant 2011 PPP $) of the OIC countries as a group was estimated as 2% which was below that of the Non-OIC Developing (4.5%) and World (2.3%) but above that of the Developed countries group (1%).

At the individual country level, the OIC countries showed considerable variation in average annual labour productivity growth rate.

- The average annual labour productivity growth rate difference between the strong and poor performing OIC countries was around 12 percentage points.
- Countries with lower levels of labour productivity converge towards more developed economies within OIC through higher productivity growth rates.
- Convergence in labour productivity was observed for 21 countries while 14 countries experienced divergence from the OIC average over the period 2000-2018.

The strong performing 6 OIC countries in average annual labour productivity growth rate were Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Mozambique, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan (all over 4% in the period 2000-2018).

However, 14 OIC countries recorded negative average annual labour productivity growth rates in the same period.

Note: The values in the parentheses indicate the GDP per person employed (constant 2011 PPP $) in 2000. The countries with lower GDP per person employed in 2000 compared to the OIC overall average but with higher rates of average annual growth rate over the 2000-2018 period are converging to the OIC average. The GDP (constant 2011 PPP $) values were estimated by SESRIC staff for Afghanistan (year 2000), for Iran (year 2018), and for Djibouti, Somalia, and Syria (both 2000 and 2018).

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 17/02/2020 from World Bank World Development Indicators Database. Please visit OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database (http://bit.ly/2F7W8cv) for other Labour and Social Protection category indicators.