

## Editorial Introduction

In this volume of the Fraser Economic Commentary we continue to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scotland's leading commentator on the Scottish economy; the **Fraser of Allander Institute** and its **Fraser Economic Commentary**. We publish the '**Complete Catalogue of the Fraser Economic Commentary**'. The Catalogue includes all forecasts, Outlook & Appraisals and articles published by the Commentary over the past 40 years; both as the **Quarterly Economic Commentary** (1970-2006) and the **Fraser (of Allander) Economic Commentary** (2007 - present). A Fraser Economic Commentary Digital Archive has been created and any Fraser Economic Commentary article or Outlook can be searched by author, title, date and key words – and via any search engine. Articles are made available through *StrathPrints* the University of Strathclyde institutional e-print repository.

We publish the third and final instalment of '**Forty Turbulent Years: The 'Nice' decade turns nasty; banking Armageddon; and the politics of austerity, 2001- 2015**' by Alf Young, a 40 year history of the Scottish economy and economic policy issues, as viewed through the pages of the Quarterly / Fraser Economic Commentary.

Productivity is a key issue for the Scottish economy. '**Scotland's productivity performance- latest data and insights**' by Kenny Richmond and Jennifer Turnbull brings together the latest data on this crucial long term issue for the productive capacity of the Scottish economy.

In a small, open economy like Scotland's export performance is closely linked to productivity and our international competitiveness. Jonathan Slow, Stewart Turner and Kenny Richmond review the latest evidence in '**Scotland's export performance: some recent evidence**'. How to improve to Scotland's poor export performance, relative to OECD countries, is a moot point. Loe Franssen in '**International Value Chains; opportunities and challenges for small and developing countries**' draws on a recent World Trade Organisation (WTO) report on the international engagement of SME's in less developed countries. The authors uses this to propose how Scotland might improve the export performance of SME's.

How the Scottish economy will and should respond to the challenge of global warming is the subject of '**Re-designing a more circular Scottish economy**' by Ewan Mearns and Daniel Hinze. They outline on-going research and policy work in Scotland to help develop 'circular economy' thinking in economic policy and in the development of new business and economic opportunities in some of Scotland's key sectors: oil and gas and the bio-economy.

Future changes in Scotland's demography, working age population and forecast employment demand is the subject of Graham Thom and Susan Stewart's '**Some key issues for employment and skills in Scotland: a review of emerging evidence**'. They note that change will vary across Scotland and will require new and different approaches by the public sector, industry and businesses to ensure that Scotland's labour market is able to supply the required people and skills as its working age population declines.

Wellbeing is a hot topic in public policy and is often used as a rejoinder to economists who continue to measure economic welfare in terms of GDP etc. Charlie Woods and Donald Jarvie in '**Improving lives in Scotland: a wellbeing approach**' review the outputs of research commissioned by the Scottish Universities Insight Institute (SUII). They show that wellbeing is an increasing recognised policy objective. They propose amendments to the Scottish Government's *Scotland Performs* framework to take better account of wellbeing in measuring "success".

Kevin D Kane  
Managing Editor, Fraser Economic Commentary  
Fraser of Allander Institute  
November 2015