

PREFACE

The *Handbook of Statistics on Pakistan Economy* produced for the first time by State Bank of Pakistan is an attempt to provide a warehouse of statistical information pertaining to a broad spectrum of economic variables. The handbook will serve as an invaluable source of reference on various aspects of the country's economy. The first edition covers a wide range of subjects and efforts are made to provide time series starting from 1947. In certain cases, however it has not been possible due to non-availability of the necessary data. For monthly and other higher frequency data, the time period coverage is comparatively short.

Subjects covered in the publication comprise of money and banking, balance of payments, national income, savings and investments, capital market and other key statistics of Pakistan. Major part of the handbook is based on data compiled by the Statistics Department of State Bank of Pakistan. Inputs were also provided by Research Department, Accounts Department, Exchange & Debt Management Department, Economic Policy Department and Banking Supervision Department of the Bank. Data has also been collected from other government organizations and ministries such as the Statistics Division, Economic Affairs Division and Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan. Explanatory notes on each chapter are provided at the end of the publication for the benefit of users. It includes highlights of each table along with details of changes in methodologies, base-years and other changes that have taken place from time to time. In addition to the printed version, the publication is also available on the SBP website www.sbp.org.pk. Further, the growing use of off-the-shelf tools for time series data analysis has made it inevitable to provide soft copy of the data on CDs.

The publication is compiled, edited and composed by an in-house team of professionals whose untiring efforts enabled timely completion of the task. Every effort is made to ensure that information provided in the handbook is accurate and up-to-date at the time of going to press. We acknowledge the contributions and assistance provided by the Statistics Division, Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan and various departments of State Bank of Pakistan.

Comments and suggestions for further improvement of the publication are welcome.

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