

Special Issue

The Interplay between Circular Economy and Productivity

Message from the Guest Editors

Productivity is often acknowledged as the most important determinant of a country's average living standards and wealth, and its growth is generated by increasing output value or reducing inputs. As the circular economy aims to minimise waste through system redesign and material loops, it appears intuitive that it should promote productivity growth. A stream within the literature seems to support this idea by highlighting the theoretical potential for creating value through the application of circular principles and strategies. However, other articles reveal several of the difficulties and costs firms can face when implementing them. There is therefore a lack of consensus on whether the circular economy contributes to productivity—in particular labour productivity—at the firm, supply chain or national levels. In this Special Issue, our purpose is to compile articles that contribute to the understanding of the impact of the circular economy on productivity.

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