

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820287403321
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Titolo	Productivity in the U.S. services sector : new sources of economic growth // Jack E. Triplett, Barry P. Bosworth
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : Brookings Institution Press, c2004
ISBN	0-8157-9663-3
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (415 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	BosworthBarry <1942->
Disciplina	338.4/5/0973
Soggetti	Service industries - Labor productivity - United States Industrial productivity - United States - Measurement
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 375-388) and index.
Nota di contenuto	""Contents""; ""Foreword""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Productivity in the U. S. Services Sector""; ""Introduction""; ""Overview: Industry Productivity Trends""; ""Discussion of Productivity Trends and Measurement Issues in Services Industries""; ""Output and Productivity in the Transportation Sector""; ""Output and Productivity Growth in the Communications Industry""; ""Discussion of the Transportation and Communications Industries""; ""Overview: Productivity and Measurement in the Finance and Insurance Sector""; ""Price, Output, and Productivity of Insurance: Conceptual Issues"" ""Measuring Banking and Finance: Conceptual Issues""""Discussion of Banking Output""; ""Discussion of Output Measurement in the Insurance and the Banking and Finance Industries""; ""Reply to Dennis Fixler""; ""Output and Productivity in Retail Trade""; ""Discussion of Output and Productivity in Retail Trade""; ""Output and Productivity in Other Services""; ""High-Tech Capital Equipment: Inputs to Services Industries""; ""Data Needs""; ""Industry Productivity Accounts, 1987-2001""; ""Workshops in the Brookings Program on Output and Productivity Measurement in the Services Sector"" ""References""""Index""
Sommario/riassunto	The services industries--which include jobs ranging from flipping hamburgers to providing investment advice--can no longer be characterized, as they have in the past, as a stagnant sector marked by

low productivity growth. They have emerged as one of the most dynamic and innovative segments of the U.S. economy, now accounting for more than three-quarters of gross domestic product. During the 1990s, 19 million additional jobs were created in this sector, while growth was stagnant in the goods-producing sector. Here, Jack Triplett and Barry Bosworth analyze services sector productivity, demonstrating that fundamental changes have taken place in this sector of the U.S. economy. They show that growth in the services industries fueled the post-1995 expansion in the U.S. productivity and assess the role of information technology in transforming and accelerating services productivity. In addition to their findings for the services sector as a whole, they include separate chapters for a diverse range of industries within the sector, including transportation and communications, wholesale and retail trade, and finance and insurance. The authors also examine productivity measurement issues, chiefly statistical methods for measuring services industry output. They highlight the importance of making improvements within the U.S. statistical system to provide the more accurate and relevant measures essential for analyzing productivity and economic growth.
