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German Economy 20 Years after Reunification

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This publication is devoted to the challenges that the German economy faced in the first 20 years after the reunification, a topic which is both current and important from the perspective of research and economic performance. The authors – J. Misala, M. Götz, I. Romiszewska, P. Kalka, T. Budnikowski and M. Żukowski – comprehensively discuss the most important issues since East and West Germany merged.

The first issue discussed is how big the economic disproportions between the eastern and western lands still are. Then changes in Germany's foreign trade are analysed in detail as its role in Germany's economic growth is important. Next the focus moves to the structure of R&D expenditure. A comparison of R&D outlays in Germany and other highly-developed countries shows that the volume of Germany's investments continues to be relatively huge.

Much space is given to Germany's social integration, primarily to unemployment resulting from the introduction of market economy in the former German Democratic Republic. Another issue tackled is the rapid ageing of the German society and the functioning of the social security system.

Conclusions offered in each paper are on both the theory and practice of the German economic policy making this publication useful for researchers, students of economics as well as politicians and economists.