Our FEB alumni and researchers

Dr. Wim Duisenberg: First President of the European Central Bank
Prof. Klaas Knot: President of the De Nederlandsche Bank
Prof. Peter Leeflang: Frank M. Bass Professor in Marketing
Prof. Angus Maddison: Emeritus Professor in Economic Sociology
Annemiek Fentener van Vlissingen MSc., President-Commissioner of SHV Holdings
Prof. Paul Polman MSc., CEO of Unilever
Jeroen Smit MSc., Journalist and author
Ernest Yonli PhD, Ambassador to the US, former Prime Minister of Burkina Faso

About the GGDC

The Groningen Growth and Development Centre (GGDC) was founded within the Economics Department of the University of Groningen in 1992. It was originally set up by a group of researchers working on comparative analysis of economic performance over time and across countries in the tradition of Angus Maddison. More recently, it has grown into a research centre that studies the interactions of globalisation, technology and institutional change, and designs and long-run economic growth, structural change and productivity and inequality. The GGDC provides unique information on comparative trends in the world economy in the form of easily accessible datasets, along with comprehensive documentation. These data are made publicly available, which enables researchers and policy makers from all over the world to analyse productivity, structural change and economic growth in detail. This includes the Penn World Table, the World Input-Output Database (WIOD) and the Maddison Historical Statistics.

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Our centres of expertise

FEB has eleven centres of expertise, in which clusters of researchers focus on a specific topic. You can ask the relevant expertise centre to carry out research into an issue specific to your organisation or you can participate in one of our ongoing research projects. Working with one or more of our centres of expertise also gives you access to recent research, courses and conferences.

• CIBIF: Centre for International Banking, Insurance and Finance
• CEER: Centre for Energy Economics Research
• CIC: Customer Insights Centre
• COELO: Centre for Research on Local Government Economics
• COPE: Centre for Operational Excellence
• GGDC: Groningen Growth and Development Centre
• Healthwise
• HRM&OB: Centre for Human Resource Management and Organisational Behaviour
• iGOR: Institute for Governance and Organisational Responsibility
• In the LEAD
• VinCI: Value in Collaborative Innovation

Making research data widely available

Marcel Timmer - Professor of Economic Growth and Development
Reitze Gouma - Database Manager GGDC
Jutta Bolt - Associate Professor of Economics

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Productivity and Welfare

Penn World Table

The Penn World Table (PWT) is the most widely used database for economic research in the world. It has been providing information on country income levels for all countries since 1970. In addition to income levels, the database includes information on output, prices, quantities, gross capital formation, and labor inputs, as well as productivity indicators. The Penn World Table is the basis for a comprehensive assessment of cross-country growth and development. The rows below show how comparative income levels have changed over the past quarter century, with rapid growth induced by higher growth across Asia and in Latin America, far faster than in Africa and in Latin America, with slower growth.

Historical Developments

The Maddison Project Database

The Maddison Project Database provides income estimates for a global set of countries from the Roman times until the present. This database can be used to study growth dynamics in order to see when some countries lagged behind and others overtook, and when they rekindled recoveries. For the first time, Maddison’s students have reported the full dataset, and the WIOD is now available. The database is widely used to study structural change, trade, and growth rates. It is a powerful tool for understanding the economy of the world, and to follow in his footsteps and carry on this important work.

Global Value Chains

World Input-Output Database

The World Input-Output Database (WIOD) contains information on interactions between goods and services within and across countries. We used this to uncover the question why global trade has recently slowed down, and due to reorganisation of global supply chains, such as after brexit or the growing importance of export-oriented industries.

The WIOD is a truly unique database, it is given by its researcher an in-depth view of the world economy, linking economic activity levels to trade. It is put into perspective as a causal map, but a ‘fuzzy’ layer of globalisation during the past five decades.

Explaining ‘Peak Trade’ is not a single story

The relative growth of the EU and the US will most likely remain an important determinant of global trade growth in the near future as well.

Since 2011 the Groningen Growth and Development Centre (GGDC) has organised the Maddison Lectures at the University of Groningen. The aim is to bring leading international economic history researchers to Groningen to present on major topics of economic history, growth and development. Past researchers included notables, always with a long-term perspective, following the footsteps of Angus Maddison who laid the foundations of research in this discipline at our university.